

February 21, 2010  
**SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
*Of Princeton, New Jersey*

James 4: 6: But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7: Submit yourselves therefore to God.

#### **MEETING LOCATION**

Rocky Hill Firehouse, 2nd floor  
150 Washington Street, Rocky Hill, NJ 08553

#### **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

Sunday	10:00 AM	Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Morning Service
Thursday	7:00 PM	Mid-week Service

#### **WEB ADDRESSES**

Be sure to bookmark our website for daily articles, sermon notes and audio messages  
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#### **MAILING ADDRESS**

7 Birch Street  
Pennington, New Jersey 08534  
Phone: 615-513-4464  
Email: [clay@freegracemedia.com](mailto:clay@freegracemedia.com)

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## **PEACEFUL SOWING**

### **James 3**

#### **BE NOT MANY MASTERS**

##### **James 3: 1**

This may have a reference to a desire for the office of a pastor. But in context, it seems to apply to all brethren within the church. James cautions the believer against the desire to have preeminence over others (James 4: 11-12.) The Lord Jesus used the vainly religious scribes and Pharisees as the example (Matthew 23: 1-12.) Satan's enticement was "ye shall be as gods." It is the sinful desire of all men by nature. There may be a splinter in our brother's eye, but when any of us exalts ourselves as if we were the sinless Master, able to create obedience as only he can, there is a whole timber in our own eye (Matthew 7: 1, 2; James 2: 13.)

#### **WE OFFEND ALL**

##### **James 3: 2**

First, when we exalt ourselves in such a haughty manner it is an offense toward all in the Godhead, even our Savior. Brethren, one is our Father; one is our Master even Christ Jesus the Son of God; the Holy Spirit works obedience in the heart, not by our strength, but through the word of truth (Romans 14:4; James 4: 11, 12.) Secondly, we are sinners in all. We must always consider that we need mercy continually ourselves. (Galatians 6:1.)

#### **A PERFECT MAN**

##### **James 3: 2**

There is no perfect believer without sin. But if the tongue is bridled, it is due to a work of grace in the heart (Luke 6: 45.) James is saying in a positive way what he said before in a negative way (James 1: 26.) If any man's tongue is bridled, this man's religion is true, so that not only his tongue but his whole body is in subjection to Christ. The word "perfect" is used to describe spiritual maturity (I Corinthians 2: 6)

## **GREAT THINGS FROM A SMALL INSTRUMENT**

### **James 3: 3-8**

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The tongue is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison within unregenerate sinners. It can cause great damage as does a fire (Proverbs 16:28; 26:22; 22:10; 26: 20.) No man can tame it. Yet, God can. When the heart is made new this small instrument is used of God to do great things for perishing sinners, for the body of Christ. Through the use of sanctified tongues the Holy Spirit bears witness of the utter inability of all sinners and of the righteousness of God in the faithfulness of Christ our Lord through whom God is declared just and the Justifier and his elect made the righteousness of God in him. He creates life in dead sinners, converts, comforts and keeps his people, bringing into subjection our entire bodies and edifying his.

## **BLESSING AND CURSING**

### **James 3: 9-10**

Remember that James is speaking to believers. By grace, the tenor of the believer is no longer a spirit of bitter envy and strife. We walk after the Spirit, not after the flesh. But if we are honest, the fleshly spirit is not absent from us. It ought not to be so, brethren, but with the same tongue that we worship God, even the Father, how often we find ourselves being critical of men, who are made after the image of the very God we worship. May we mourn what we are and plead our continual need of tender mercies from our Father. Brethren, let us continually ask God for wisdom and grace to speak as we ought to speak (James 1: 5.)

## **FOUNTAIN OF FLESH, FOUNTAIN OF GRACE**

### **James 3: 11-16**

Do not err my beloved brethren. It is impossible for the same fountain to produce salt water and sweet water; the tree bears fruit after its kind. From the fountain of the new heart created by grace springs forth a good conversation in the spirit of meekness. But whenever bitter envy or strife bubbles up within, let us never glory or lie against the truth. This wisdom is not

from the fountain created by God. It is of the earthly, sensual, devilish fountain of our old nature (James 1: 13-17.) If you and I have any wisdom and heart to bless God, it is to the glory of God, but the filth and excess is of us (James 1: 21.) It is not hard to understand how this can be said of you, believer, if God has made you to know that though Christ abides in you, in your flesh still dwells no good thing (Romans 7: 18-25.)

## **WISDOM FROM ABOVE**

### **James 3: 17**

Wisdom God gives is pure: not of sinful man, every good and perfect gift is from God; then peaceable: delighting to cover the sins of brethren, to speak words of comfort; gentle and easy to be entreated: the opposite of the self-righteous, overbearing spirit; full of mercy and good fruits: delighting to show mercy, visiting the helpless in their trial with meekness; without partiality--without a respect of persons; without hypocrisy--not as men-pleasers but from a pure heart.

## **THE PEACEFUL SOWER**

### **James 3: 18**

Christ is the Fruit of Righteousness, Wisdom from above, the Seed sown by the Father, the Righteous Branch. His righteous work has made peace between his people and our God (Isaiah 32:17.) In the day of visitation, this Seed was sown into our hearts, not by might or by force of men, but by the Spirit of peace, through the gospel of peace, spoken to us peaceably by a tongue tamed by God. The effect his righteousness has upon us is quietness and assurance forever. By this effectual working, true believers go forth sowing the fruit of righteousness--the gospel of Christ--the same as we received it. Not as lord's over God's heritage but peacefully, waiting on our Husbandman to break up the fallow ground, to engraft the Word in the hearts of his redeemed. This is the manner in which peace is made.

Be not many masters, brethren. The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. (Proverbs 12:18; 15:4; 25: 11, 12.)

## **SERMONS**

After clicking on the following links you will find an option at the top of the page for the audio.

[Only Thing Worth Knowing](#)

[Faith Justified by Works](#)

## **SERMON TRANSCRIPTS**

(No audio available for the following sermons)

[The LORD Reigns Now!](#)

[Peaceful Sowing](#)

## **ARTICLE**

[The Whole Offering](#)

## **ARTICLES FROM OTHERS**

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[An Empty Profession](#)

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