

**Problem:**

what exactly is lukewarmness?

Rev 3:14-22 not committing, not choosing- it is synonymous to being double minded - Why is it so bad?

Matt 6:19-24 - trying to serve two masters

**Text:****Do not Chose the World**

James 5:1 ¶ **Come now, you rich, weep and howl** for the miseries that are coming upon you.

James 5:2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. (*think about cars, clothes (jeans) or houses - decay*)

James 5:3 Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.

James 5:4 Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

James 5:5 You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

James 5:6 You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

*don't be deceived - James 1:9-11 - riches in God*

*ambition in hearts - James 3:13-4:10 - two masters (4:4)*

*don't choose the world - Luke 16:1-13 - the world cannot save you (sarcasm in Luke)*

*-> honestly what makes you feel secure right now? what are you truly seeking for security and significance?*

**Choose Patience**

James 5:7 ¶ **Be patient, therefore, brothers**, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.

James 5:8 You also, **be patient**. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

James 5:9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

James 5:10 As an example of suffering and **patience**, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

James 5:11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained **steadfast**. You have heard of the **steadfastness** of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

*(7-8) humble in control of the future - James 4:13-17*

*(9-10) not slandering - James 4:11-12*

*no partiality all law of liberty - James 2:1-13*

*(11) Joy in trials - James 1:2-4, 12*

*Choose patience - 2 Peter 3:8-18*

*-> The Christian life is not about fixing a fallen world but worshipping while you wait for the perfect one promised*

**Choose Prudence**

James 5:12 ¶ But above all, my brothers, **do not swear**, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but **let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no**, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

*(do not swear) careful what you say- what your yes is - James 3:1-12 (Matt 5:33-36)*

*(let your yes be yes) careful what you do with what you say- James 1:19-27*

*problem is not being a doer of the Word - profession without possession -real faith works - James 2:14-26*

**Choose Prayer** (*7x in 6 verses*)

James 5:13 ¶ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him **pray**. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing **praise**.

James 5:14 Is anyone among you sick (**literally weak and without strength- opposite of cheerful**

**=discouraged**)? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them **pray** over him, anointing him with oil (**get dressed up with joy by faith**) in the name of the Lord.

James 5:15 And the **prayer** of faith will save the one who is sick (weak), and the Lord will raise him up (joy). And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

James 5:16 Therefore, **confess** your sins to one another and **pray** for one another, that you may be healed. The **prayer** of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

James 5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he **prayed** fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. (*reconciliation with one another as big a deal as weather changing*)

James 5:18 Then he **prayed** again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

*(13-14) prayer in trials -> sick means weak 1 Cor 8:10-12 -without strength -lacking wisdom -double-minded*

*-in context of James 1 likely means discouraged which is opposite of cheerful  
anointing with oil is akin to taking medicine - (Lk 10:34; 1 Tim 5:23) - same advice as to Timothy about a little wine*

*-> pray but take care of yourself or oil of joy*

*or more likely relating to cheerfulness and the theme of James- wearing it*

*Ruth 3:3; 2 Sam 12:20; 14:2; Micah 6:15; ps 104:14-15; ps 133:1-2; Matt 6:16-17*

*=get dressed up for joy - resume your normal activities by faith*

*(15-18) Healed = sober minded - 1 Pet 4:7 -> cheerful, able to consider it all joy James 1:2-8*

### Choose Peacemaking

James 5:19 ¶ My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back,

James 5:20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from **his** wandering will save **his** soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. (**his**)

*(20) their sinful desire leads to physical death - - James 1:13-15*

*bringing the gospel brings new desires and brings life and covers a multitude of sins - Gal 5:16-26*

*it is a worthy goal to bring back weak and wandering brothers and sisters -Gal 6:1*

**Choose** - Joshua 24:14-15 - you cannot accidentally live for God

### Main Idea:

Our choices reveal our Christianity

### Implication:

Living the real Christian life in 2015 is going to require some real choices regarding...

#### patience

##### **Application:**

Resolve to not settle for the security and significance the world offers it will disappoint you in the end

#### prudence

##### **Application:**

Resolve to be careful of your tongue -speak the Word and actually do it- actually practice what you preach

#### prayer

##### **Application:**

Resolve to pray and to surround yourself with people who can pray for you when you are discouraged and doubting - you are weak and will fall - resolve to have people around to pick you up

#### peacemaking

##### **Application:**

resolve to care about your brothers and sisters drifting away from the faith. resolve to pursue not only the lost but also the weak and wandering

**Action:** Josh 24:14-15 (do not be deceived - don't lie to yourself)

you cannot accidentally live for God - you must choose it

in other words- the Christian life is a life meant to be lived on purpose

Resolve today what you will live for

here are some articles to discuss:

Jonathan Edwards had these resolutions - they are over the top in some cases and often look like legalism but the point is they show a man who is living the Christian life on purpose:  
<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-resolutions-of-jonathan-edwards>

what does patience in this fallen world look like?  
<http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-long-o-lord>

here is a brief article about what a prudent tongue looks like  
<http://milanosmusings.blogspot.com/2012/12/the-tongue-our-measure.html>

here is how to get involved tangibly with the corporate prayer ministry at this church  
<http://www.barabbasroadchurch.com/prayer.php>

here is a great article regarding peacemaking on purpose  
[http://www.peacemaker.net/site/c.aqKFLTOBIPH/b.958149/k.303A/The\\_Four\\_Gs.htm](http://www.peacemaker.net/site/c.aqKFLTOBIPH/b.958149/k.303A/The_Four_Gs.htm)