

A TEN STEP PROGRAM

James 5:13-20

INTRODUCTION

- A. We are living in a 'What to do with ...' society. We pick up a magazine, and we are told what to do with this situation or that. We go to the Internet, and we are told what to do with first one problem and then another.
- B. This is the 'list' generation. We love lists: ten steps to this, five keys to that, seven principles for something else. We like lists because they are so practical! The Bible was dealing with practical matters long before we ever came along, and, unless the Lord Jesus soon returns, it will continue to do so after we are gone. For centuries and centuries, the Bible has been telling us what to do with various situations.
- C. And while the entire Bible is practical, no part of it is more so than the book of James. In the verse before us, James gives us a list of what we should do with various situations.
- D. James has a word for us no matter what life brings our way. When things are bad, he tells us to pray. When things are good, he tells us to praise God
- E. We can put it like this: Christians should find themselves naturally gravitating towards God in every situation of life.
- F. Someone said, "People are tired of hearing about "ten steps that will change your life." That isn't where it's at, because then people tend to focus on the steps instead of hearing and obeying God."
- G. In our "Ten Step Program" we will listen to God!

DISCUSSION

- I. 1ST – "I AM NOT PERFECT AND THERE IS NOT A PERFECT CONGREGATION."
 - A. RE 2:4-5.
 - B. RE 2:14.
 - C. RE 3:8.
- II. 2ND – "I WILL FOCUS ON THE GOOD OF MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST."
 - A. TS 1:15.
 - B. 1 TH 5:12.
- III. 3RD – "I WILL TREAT THE YOUNG HOW I WANTED TO BE TREATED WHEN I WAS YOUNGER AND I WILL TREAT THE OLDER THE WAY I WANT TO BE TREATED AS I GET OLDER."
 - A. MT 22:39.
 - B. 1 CO 16:10.
 - C. 1 TI 4:12.
 - D. PR 3:13.
 - E. PR 8:11.
- IV. "WHEN I AM TEMPTED TO CRITICIZE OTHERS FOR WHAT THEY ARE DOING, I WILL PRAY FOR THEM FIRST."
 - A. MT 7:3-5.
 - B. PS 51:9-13.
 - C. MT 5:43-45.
 - D. 1 PE 3:8-12.
- V. "I WILL NOT COMPLAIN ABOUT WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE INSTEAD I WILL DO THE WORK MYSELF OR HELP SOMEONE DO IT."
 - A. EC 9:10.
 - B. Re-View the first 5.
- VI. "I WILL NEVER BLAME MY FAILURES ON SOMEONE ELSE."
 - A. GE 3:12-13.

- B. GE 16:5.
 - C. EX 32:22-24.
 - D. Esau blamed his brother for losing his birthright. GE 25:29-34; 27:36.
 - E. Saul blamed the people for not obeying God's command. 1 SAM 15:20-21.
 - F. Pilate blamed the death of Jesus on the Jews even though He had the power to free Him. MT 27:24-25.
 - G. EK 18:19-21.
 - H. EK 33:8.
- VII. "I WILL REMIND MYSELF EVERY DAY THAT THE BEST WAY I CAN IMPROVED THE WORLD OR THE CONGREGATION IS TO BEGIN WITH ME."
- A. 2 CO 13:5.
 - B. Acts 19:13-17.
 - C. 1 CO 9:27.
- VIII. "I WILL BE A STUDENT OF GOD'S WORD DAILY."
- A. Job 23:12.
 - B. PS 19:9-10.
 - C. 1 PE 2:2.
 - D. 2 TI 2:15.
 - E. 2 PE 3:18.
- IX. "I WILL TRY AND INCREASE MY CIRCLE OF FRIENDS IN THIS CONGREGATION AND THEN TRY TO DO SOMETHING FOR EACH OF THEM."
- A. PR 18:24.
 - B. HE 6:10-12.
 - C. MT 20:28.
 - D. PH 2:1-3.
 - E. JA 4:6.
- X. "I WILL REMEMBER THAT EVERY CONGREGATION HAS ITS PROBLEMS, BUT I WILL ASK MYSELF, "AM I A PART OF THE PROBLEM OR A PART OF THE SOLUTION?"
- A. JA 4:17.
 - B. Review all 10.
 - C. RE 2:14.

CONCLUSION

- A. What does the Bible say about salvation?
- B. The Gospel Plan Of Salvation.