

ROAD RULES from the Book of JAMES

Message: CAUTION: STEEP HILL

Text: James 4:11-5:6, pew Bible, p.1073

Heritage Church, Van Buren, AR – July 19, 2026

1. CAUTION: CRITICISM

James 4:11-12 *Don't criticize one another, brothers and sisters. Anyone who defames or judges a fellow believer defames and judges the law. If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹² There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?*

COURSE CORRECTION: WORSHIP

Matthew 7:5 *Hypocrite! First take the beam of wood out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother's eye.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11 *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.*

2. CAUTION: SELF-CONFIDENCE

James 4:13-16 *Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will travel to such and such a city and spend a year there and do business and make a profit." ¹⁴ Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like vapor that appears for a little while, then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead, you should say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ But as it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.*

COURSE CORRECTION: WORSHIP

Matthew 6:10 *Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Proverbs 16:9 *A person's heart plans his way, but the Lord determines his steps.*

3. CAUTION: SIN!

James 4:17 *So it is sin to know the good and yet not do it.*

COURSE CORRECTION: WORSHIP

Mark 3:35 *Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."*

John 14:15-17 *"If you love me, you will obey my commandments. ¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper who will be with you forever. ¹⁷ That helper is the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it doesn't see or know him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be in you.*

4. CAUTION: WEALTH

James 5:1-6 *Come now, you rich people, weep and wail over the miseries that are coming on you. ² Your wealth has rotted and your clothes are moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have stored up treasure in the last days. ⁴ Look! The pay that you withheld from the workers who mowed your fields cries out, and the outcry of the harvesters has reached the ears of the Lord of Armies. ⁵ You have lived luxuriously on the earth and have indulged yourselves. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned, you have murdered the righteous, who does not resist you.*

COURSE CORRECTION: WORSHIP

Luke 12:16-21 *Then he used this illustration. He said, "A rich man had land that produced good crops. ¹⁷ He thought, 'What should I do? I don't have enough room to store my crops.' ¹⁸ He said, 'I know what I'll do. I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones so that I can store all my grain and goods in them. ¹⁹ Then I'll say to myself, 'You've stored up a lot of good things for years to come. Take life easy, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.'" ²⁰ "But God said to him, 'You fool! I will demand your life from you tonight! Now who will get what you've accumulated?' ²¹ That's how it is when a person has material riches but is not rich in his relationship with God."*

THREE FOR THE ROAD

1. Live a life of encouragement
2. Give ALL your plans to God (He holds tomorrow)
3. Let God consume your life

James 4:17 *So it is sin to know the good and yet not do it.*
IS WORSHIP LACKING IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?