



JAMES

— TRANSFORMED BY FAITH →

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.

GOSPEL CREDIBILITY

James 5:12

As the Gospel makes us trustworthy, people will listen when we share the Gospel.

CONTEXTUAL CLARITY: SWEARING

- Jews were known for swearing oaths—but their oaths became a means for telling lies
- Greeks and Romans swore with, “by Jove”
- “By golly” = “By God”; golly is a substitute for God = a loophole!
- Other examples: “I swear to God”, “Honest to God”

IDOLATRY IS A BIG DEAL

- Substituting Jerusalem, the temple, heaven/earth for God is idolatry
- We take wedding vows “in the presence of God” because *only* God truly knows when we’re being faithful
- Our idolatry: forming a god that shrugs at our sin
- *Coram Deo* = in the presence of God

GOSPEL-MOTIVATED CREDIBILITY

- The Gospel truly believed and increasingly loved will always motivate believers towards credibility.
- We pursue credibility *so that* we have opportunities to share the Gospel.

FOR REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

- Why do I use the phrase “swear to God” or “honest to God”? Do I *really* mean that?
- How have I forgotten that God sees and hears everything?
- Have I created a substitute god who is tolerant of my sin?
- Where do I need to repent of lacking credibility?
- God is infinitely credible! Worship Him as the God who cannot lie.



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