

## Communion Meditation

James 4.8      Draw Near to God      August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### “Draw near to God”

- To “draw near” is more than a physical action
  - This sentence wouldn’t make sense otherwise
- God is everywhere / “in Him we live and move and have our being”

### “What is Communion?”

- Two definitions of the word from dictionary or Bible
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – “the sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially when the exchange is on a spiritual level”
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – “the service of Christian worship at which bread and wine are consecrated and shared”
- We’re engaged in 2<sup>nd</sup> definition / But it has meaning only to those w/1<sup>st</sup>

### “and He will draw near to You”

- God makes the first move in our salvation / But this is not salvation
- James encourages us to “draw near to God”
  - This presumes we’re not as close as we can be / as we’d like to be
- “Do you enjoy spiritual intimacy with God?” / “Are you near to Him?”
  - If you’re not as close as you’d like James gives 2 reasons why

### “cleanse your hands you sinners; purify your hearts, you double-minded”

- “hands” – reflects our actions
- “hearts” – reflects our thoughts / desires
- Though we know & love God / Our thoughts & actions can go astray
- **Pro 18.1** ~ “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire”
  - There’s a good isolation and there’s a bad isolation
  - We must isolate ourselves only to be intimate with God

Quote at start was from **Acts 17** – Paul preaching at **Areopagus**

Read Acts 17.24-28 ~ “God who made the world .. have our being.”

God commands all men everywhere to seek Him while He may be found

That command is true for believer and unbeliever

Unbeliever seeks salvation / Believer seeks deeper communion