

## What If All the Earth Drew Near to God?

You have heard the expression, "Don't be so heavenly minded that you're no earthly good." But I think of the traffic droning on our nearby highway. Day and night, people never quiet down. They rush north and south, an endless droning. And what good are we doing?

What good are the practical, earthly minded with scarce spiritual practices? Fervent prayer, contemplation of God, meditating on His word, submitting oneself to Him—genuine spiritual practice is the source of genuinely practical achievement. I think of Christ in the garden. "Being in anguish, he prayed more fervently" (Luke 22:44).

Andrew Murray, commenting on Matthew 28:18 ("All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth") said that the believer can only find his strength for life and work through the power of Christ (paraphrasing *Abide in Christ*).

What would happen to this earthly life we're so sure of, if for one minute all the busy people stopped, united in praise? "Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below"—what if the hymn came true? What if it shifted history? What if we all did "draw near to God" (James 4:8), altogether, and the devil fled? What if man's heavenly mindedness ushered in the promised knowledge of the glory of God that is to flood earth "as the water covers the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14)?

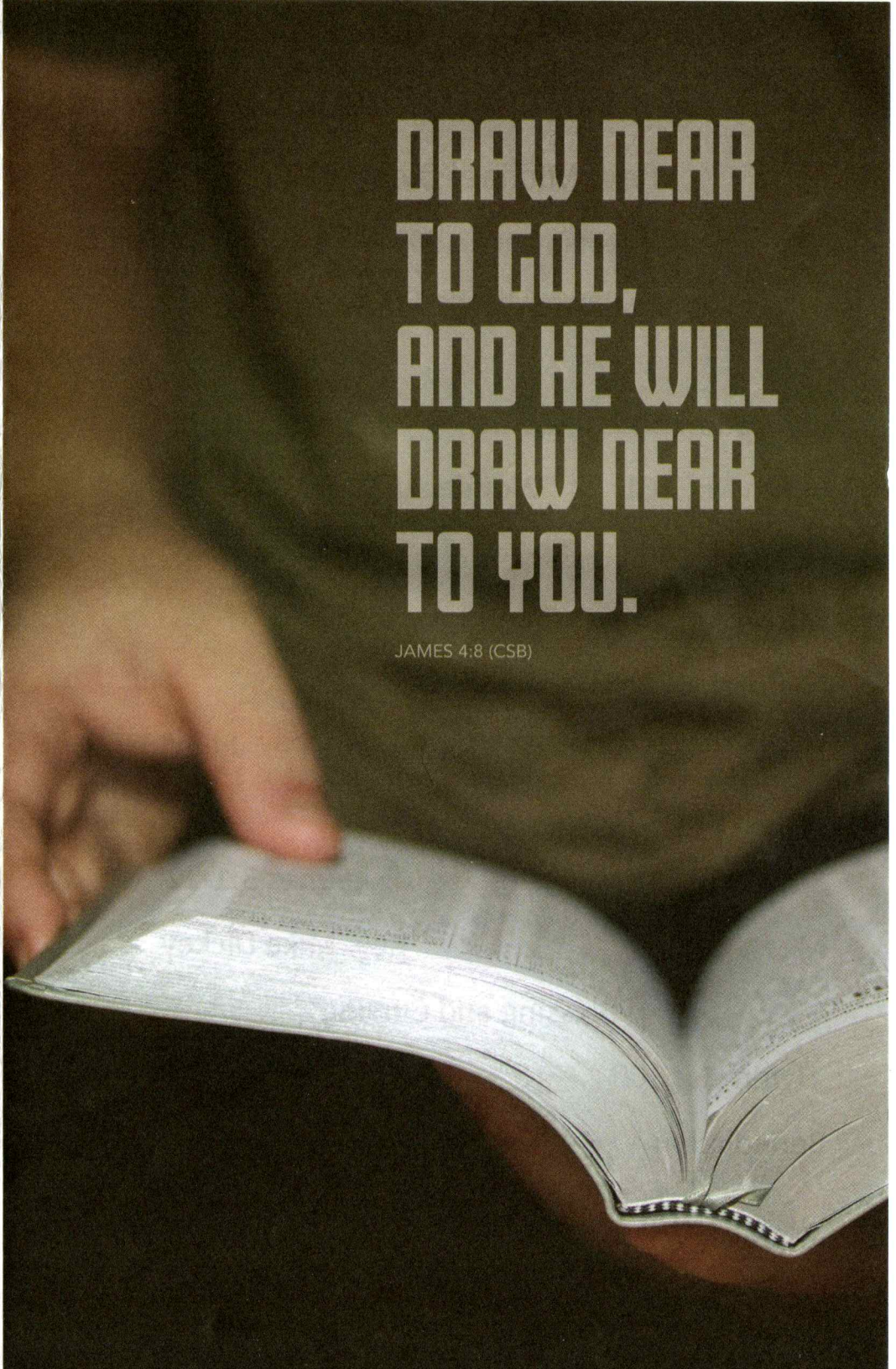
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**DRAW NEAR  
TO GOD,  
AND HE WILL  
DRAW NEAR  
TO YOU.**

JAMES 4:8 (CSB)

# SAPPONY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Michael Dickey

September 22, 2024

[www.sapponybaptist1773.org](http://www.sapponybaptist1773.org)

Invocation and welcome

Hymn No. 261 "Wonderful Words of Life"

Hymn No. 446 "Take Time to Be Holy"

Missionary Prayer Calendar

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn No. 559 "Rescue the Perishing"

Doxology

Scripture James 3:1-12

Message Rev. Mike Dickey

"Blessing and Cursing"

Hymn No. 300 "Without Him"

Benediction

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be in prayer for our sick and shut-ins as they are unable to be here with us.

Prayer meeting and Bible Study Wednesday. at the parsonage. We will meet at 3pm for those who need an early study and 7pm for those who need a later one.

Mrs. Tammy will not be with the students tonight; they are welcome to attend with the adults for this week if they like.

PBA Executive Council will meet on Monday, Oct. 14 at 7pm at Oaklawn Baptist Church, 7925 Hickory Rd. S. Chesterfield. Executive Council Representatives should attend this meeting.

PBA Annual Session is on Sunday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at Powers Memorial Baptist Church, 2807 Jackson Street, Hopewell. Those who were elected as messengers should attend this meeting.

The children will be collecting dolls, play jewelry and hair bows for the month of Sept. for The Shoe Box Ministry.

The Sussex County Sheriff's Office invites you to the National Faith & Blue Event, Saturday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>. from 11:00am to 3pm at the Sussex School complex. Fund for everyone.

Look for our daily devotional on our website  
[www.sapponybaptist1773.com](http://www.sapponybaptist1773.com)

PRE-READ FOR NEXT WEEK: Jame 3:13-4:8

Oct 7.