

A STUDY OF JAMES ⁽¹⁶⁾

If the Lord wills
James 4:13-17

The Book of James

- Continuing our study of James, we have addressed numerous practical applications.
- In our last lesson we concluded our discussion of the “wars among you” (**James 4:1-12**).
- We focused on how to prevent these wars we must:
 - 1) Submit to God, 2) Resist the devil, 3) Draw near to God, 4) Cleanse your hands, 5) Purify your hearts, 6) Repent (mourn & weep), and 7) Humble yourselves before Him.
- This will lead to treating others with kindness.
- Tonight, we talk about making plans.

Including God in your plans- **4:13-15**

- Planning is a part of life.
- Planning is good, but there is right way and a wrong way. That was James' concern. Do NOT leave God out of your plans! "If the Lord wills" (**4:15**)
- Planning helps us anticipate problems and make preparation. It gives your life purpose and direction. It can also demonstrate maturity and forethought
- The one who acts impulsively often finds himself in trouble.

Including God in your plans- **4:13-15**

- Planning is a part of life.
- **Proverbs 15:22, 16:3**
- **1 Chronicles 22:5** – David planned
- Nehemiah planned
- God made plans
- Jesus, while on earth made plans
- Paul made plans – **Acts 15:36, 18:20-21, 1 Corinthians 16:5-9**

Including God in your plans- **4:13-15**

- Including God in your plans
- **James 4:15**, Instead you ought to say, "*if the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.*"
- **1 Corinthians 4:19, 16:7** – Paul's actions were always with this understanding! Even Jesus in the garden manifested this attitude – **Matthew 26:39, 42**
- This is thinking about Him in all that we do – **Colossians 3:17**
- Discipleship calls for counting the cost – **Luke 14:28-33**
- Our goal is heaven – this is intentional – **2 Corinthians 5:9-10, cf. Matthew 16:26**

Careless planning - **4:13-16**

- James describes the WRONG type of planning
- Making plans without God –
 - Genesis 11:1-3** – the tower of Babel
 - Kings of Israel and Judah often
 - **Luke 12:16-23** – the rich fool
- How many today make plans, sometimes wicked and sinful, but at other times not considering God?
 - Romans 1:28** – they did not retain God in their knowledge.
- Careers and relationships, short term plans, vacations, where they go, etc. **Cf. 2 Corinthians 6:14ff**

Careless planning - **4:13-16**

- The folly of leaving God out of your plans
- You do not know what will happen tomorrow – We cannot predict the future with 100% accuracy. Things break, diseases cripple society or life, events out of your control, etc.
- **2 Corinthians 6:2** – NOW is the acceptable time. Don't put off what needs to be done today. Don't make rash decisions.
- Your life is a vapor – it is fragile and IS going to end.
Ecclesiastes – grasping for the wind (9x)
1 Chronicles 29:14-15 – our days are as a shadow
Psalms 39:4-5 – vapor
Psalms 90:10-12 - we are cut off and fly away. Teach us to number our days
- We are all going to die – **Hebrews 9:27** – 100% guaranteed

Careless planning - **4:13-16**

- The folly of leaving God out of your plans
- Now you boast in your arrogance –
Describes the one who thinks he doesn't need God, either ever or in a given situation.
Some are openly and flagrantly defying God's will and choose to do whatever they want anyways. They are proud of their rebellion.
- Contextually, this might be the wealthy successful business man who thinks he doesn't need God (and perhaps does not act with absolute integrity).

Careless planning - **4:13-16**

- The folly of leaving God out of your plans
- All such boasting is evil! – it is fragile and IS going to end.
- The Greek word for arrogance is ἀλαζονεία (alazoneia) and describes false pride. Found only 2x in NT: Here and **1 John 2:15** – the pride of life
- But sinful boasting is found throughout scripture – **2 Timothy 3:1-6, Romans 1:30.**

Careless planning - **4:13-16**

- The folly of leaving God out of your plans
- Now you boast in your arrogance –
- God demands humility – **James 4:6, Matthew 18:4, Luke 18:9**
Proverbs 27:1-2, *Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth. Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.*

To him who knows to do good - **4:17**

- Our final point emphasizes our need to act.
- We often speak of sins of commission – we do things that are wrong. Some boast about what they do and do not do – e.g., **Luke 18:11-12** – the Pharisee
- One might “brag” about how good one is by what behaviors they are not involved in – cheating, stealing, lying, gambling, drinking, profanity, lust, etc. And they might even brag about the things they do – go to church, read my Bible & pray, help others, etc.
- BUT, are you doing EVERYTHING you ought to be doing? Or are you like the rich, young ruler – **Matthew 19:17-22**?

To him who knows to do good - **4:17**

- Sins of “omission” are equally condemning.
- Among professed believers, many may be lost because of something they refused to do.
- **Matthew 23:23** – they neglected the weightier matters of the law
- **Luke 10:29-37** – the priest and Levite
- **James 2:15-17** – faith without works
- **Matthew 25:31-46** – judgment
- **Matthew 7:21-23** – not enough to say, ‘Lord, Lord’.

Concluding thoughts – **James 4:13-17**

- Planning is important! We all need to make plans.
- But in those plans we must NOT leave God out of the picture.
Everything we do ought be, “If the Lord wills”
- Why? Because we are preparing to meet God.

When you stand before God,
what will He say to you?