

A TIME TO GROW UP
"Seeking God's Plan for Your Life"
James 4:13-17

INTRODUCTION:

1. Remember James is a book of Sanctification.
 - a) A book to us grow into the image of God's Son.
 - b) To be like Jesus is to plan our lives in complete dependence upon God.
 - c) Our goal is to reflect the character of Christ and His will for our lives.

2. The **ONLY** way to **PLAN** our lives is through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.
 - a) If we don't life will be **UNCLEAR**.

FOUR WAYS TO VIEW LIFE FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

I. SEEK GOD'S DIRECTION

1. To make plans; no matter what they are; without seeking God's approval; is arrogance.
 - a) **Arrogance** - offensive display of self-importance.
 - b) **WOW!!** - Christians who exclude God from their plans are in essence, acting as if God does not exist.

2. Vs 13

- a) **"Come now"** - Or **"Now look here!!"** Or **"Listen Up"**

A. THE ROOT OF ARROGANT PLANNING

1. **"Worldliness"** - definition: *It is to exclude God from our thoughts and attitudes.*

2. To be a **"Worldly Christian"** - is an oxymoron!! A contradiction.

3. Vs 13

- a) **"we will go"** - indicating a **DONE DEAL**.
 - 1) **"This is what I AM going to do!"**
- b) **"Today or tomorrow"** - **TIME**
- c) **"into such and such a town"** - **LOCATION**
- d) **"to spend a year there"** - **DURATION**
- e) **"and trade and make a profit"** - **ACTIVITY**

4. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Here we see finite (small) man in control of every detail of life!!

B. THE DANGER OF IGNORING GOD

1. We all make plans. It's a sin not to.
2. Without God involved in our plans, we are on our own.
3. If you (*blood bought, born again, believer*) exclude God from your plans, you are in **BIG TROUBLE**.
4. **WOW!!!** Far too many Christians have handed God their **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**.
5. **Isaiah 14** Satan handed God his **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE!!**

II. TRUST GOD'S INFINITE KNOWLEDGE

A. WE ARE LIMITED IN KNOWLEDGE

1. Vs 14a
 - a) *"yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring"*
2. So how is it we get so sure of ourselves?
 - a) Do you have any idea, how many FALSE PROPHETS declared Donald J. Trump was going to be re-elected?
3. BUT here's what I **KNEW!!!!** Proverbs 14:34
 - a) *"reproach"* - means a disgrace
 - 1) That **DISGRACE** gives reason for other nations to laugh and taunt.
4. Psalm 73
 - a) Vs 22
 - 1) We are totally ignorant when it comes to advising God on how to run the universe.
5. The best proof that you have limited knowledge is that we have no idea about what will happen tomorrow.
6. Proverbs 27:1

B. LIFE IS SHORT

1. How many times do you here that?

2. Vs 14

a) *"For you are a mist"*

1) A puff of smoke.

3. **LISTEN UP:** You and I don't know much about anything when it comes to issues of life.

III. SUBMIT TO GOD'S WILL

A. GOD HAS A PLAN FOR OUR LIVES

1. Vs 15

a) *"If the Lord wills"*

2. When we make plans we ought to say *"Lord willing"*

3. We ought to say *"Lord these are my plans, but I know you are bigger than me so here you go."*

4. *John 4:34*

5. *Romans 12:2*

6. If you follow God's plan, you will know God's satisfaction.

B. WE CAN KNOW GOD'S PLAN

1. *Psalms 103:7*

a) *"The Lord made known His ways to Moses"*

2. Why? Because Moses had an intimate relationship with God.

3. *Mark 14:36 - wow*

IV. FOCUS ON THE HOLINESS OF GOD

A. THE ARROGANCE OF GODLESS PLANNING

1. Vs 16-17

2. Because God is **HOLY** (totally other). That is **SEPARATE FROM US**.

a) He reserves the right to step into our lives and ask us to obey Him even when we don't understand what's going on.

3. James is addressing believers who are not only **WORLDLY**, but believers who are **BOASTING** of their **INDEPENDENCE FROM GOD**.

4. Vs 16

a) "*boast*" - Compound Greek word - *Great things + lift up the neck*

B. THE DECEPTION OF BOASTING

1. That's exactly what happens when we brag about how we don't need God.

a) We are claiming to be able to do something we actually cannot do.

2. **Jeremiah 9:23-24**

3. Please don't brag about tomorrow...tomorrow might not come.

CONCLUSION:

1. **Luke 12:16-21**

2. **Wow!!!** What a lesson in thinking we are spiritually rich because of what we have.