

Series: "Marks Of Maturity"
"Goals"
James 4:13-17
Study-10

Context - James 4:1-10 "Worldliness"
"Sins of the Flesh" murder, theft, extortion

James 4:11-12 "Slander" consists of "Sins of the Spirit" Slander, jealousy

James 4:13-17

James deals with another Sin of the Spirit that is another form of "Worldliness." "Sin of Omission," which is planning for the future and leaving God out of our plans.

Book of James presents - (13 Marks Of Maturity) Mark #10 "Goals" (Plans)

Thought Of Our Passage: "Believers Will Fail In Making Plans When We Presume To Know God's Will, And Postpone Doing God's Will."

1. Verse 13 Planning Without God:

2. Verses 13-16 Presuming To Know:

3. Verses 17 Postponing His Will:

1. Verse 13 Planning Without God:

James 4:13 Come now,

Context - We would say, "*Now look here!*"

It speaks of disapproval and a sense of urgency.

Verses 11-12 Slander, believers slandering each other.

you who say,

Five Things That Seemed To Be Commonly Said Among Believers:

1. Set Your Own Schedule:

"**Today or tomorrow,** travel plans.

2. Select Your Own Path: we shall go to such and such a city,

In Greek, "*this city*", the exact location of their enterprise was chosen.

3. Place Your Own Limits: and spend a year there

The duration of the intended operation.

4. Arrange Your Own Activities: and engage in business

The word **business** - we get our word "*emporium*," which today is a commercial center, to do business.

5. Predict Your Own Outcome: and make a profit." The anticipated outcome.

James is not saying it's wrong or negative to make plans; the wrong is leaving God out of our plans. It is wrong to plan without God.
Proverbs 16:9

Proverbs 19:21; Matthew 6:31-33

Jesus spoke about counting the cost and preparation. Luke 14:28-32

2. Verses 13-16 Presuming To Know:

There are Three Things About The Future That We Often Miss:

1. Life Is Complicated: James 4:13

Apart from God, life does not make sense.

Some live their lives in the Past.

Some live in the Future.

We only have today, which is now; we may not have tomorrow. Life is now!

2. Life Is Uncertain:

James 4:14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow

"What is the nature of your life?" Life is not predictable, transitory.

Literal translation - *"you who know not regarding tomorrow what sort of life you will have."* **Proverbs 27:1; Psalm 135:7**

Jesus Spoke About A Wealthy Fool: Luke 12:16-21

3. Life Is Short: James 4:14 You are just a vapor

("puff of smoke, steam from hot water, breath on a cold day")

that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

James's borrows this from Job, who gives many pictures of the brevity of life.

Job 8:9; 9:25-26; 14:1-2; Psalm 39:4-5

We number our years; God says to number your days. Psalms 90:12

God's Word contains His Precepts (rules), Principles, and Promises.

Joshua 1:8

James 4:15 Instead, you ought to say,

The error was not in what was said, but in what was not.

God should have been in the planning.

"If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

Must include God, His Will.

Example - Paul speaking to believers at Ephesus - Acts 18:21

Example - Paul wrote to the Corinthians - 1 Corinthians 4:19

Paul would stay with them,

1 Corinthians 16:7

Example - Paul to the church of Philippi about sending Timothy.

Philippians 2:19

Example - The writer of Hebrews spoke of the will of God - Hebrews 6:3

Is James giving a ritualistic formula to be attached to every sentence about the future? No! It is not to be said mechanically. "if the Lord wills."

Dependence upon the Lord is what James is saying: In two areas:

1. The Accomplishment Of The Planned Activity:

(We have no guarantees that we will finish any project that we start, not only that, but that we will even start it!)

2. Most Important Is Life Itself:

(Not just salvation but life itself. Our very existence.)

also do this or that."

Leaving God outside the picture is poor planning.

How do we know the will of God in our lives?

Suggest Three Areas:

1. Starts With What We Know We Ought To Do, Scripture:

Ephesians 5:17 "Will of God," it was used 434 times

2. Do What We Ought To Do, And God Will Reveal The Next Step:

Romans 12:2

Prove - "to prove by experience." We learn it by working at it.

3. Seek Godly Counsel: Proverbs 15:22

James 4:16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

boast - denotes "self-glorying," always in a bad sense. Romans 15:17

Jeremiah 9:23-24

arrogance - plural refers to repeated displays of arrogance by self-confident merchants. Literally, "These merchants were proud of their abilities, made no secret

about it, they conveyed the impression that they were fully capable of accomplishing by their own abilities whatever they set out to do."

all such boasting is evil.

It is not only socially irritating, but foolish and sinful against God's commands.

"Humanism" - *"man is the source of all truth, and happiness."*

3. Verses 17 Postponing His Will:

James 4:17 Therefore, What is the **therefore, therefore?**

1. Life is Complicated:
2. Life is Uncertain:
3. Life is Short: We need Dependence upon God, don't be arrogant.

James tells us two ways to stop playing God in our lives:

1. Knowing The Right Thing To Do: to one who knows the right thing to do, (Some think this phrase covers the entire letter of James, possibly) **James 1:22; Micah 6:8**

This statement can be looked at in the broadest sense.

"Any conscious duty of our Christian life." That which God wants us to do!

2 Corinthians 6:2

Knowledge And Responsibility Go Together: Hebrews 12:6-8

We can also lose rewards: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Christians will stand at the judgment seat of Christ

(Romans 14:10, 1 Corinthians 3:12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10)

2. Start Doing The Right Thing: and does not do it, to him it is sin.

The sin of omission, by not doing what you should do, that is doing nothing.

Samuel said to Israel - **1 Samuel 12:23**

Application:

1. James Did Not Teach That It Was Wrong To Make Plans, But It Is Wrong To Leave God Out Of Our Planning. **Psalm 127:2**
2. Life Is Complicated, Is Uncertain, And Short, So Our Dependence Upon The Lord Is Essential. **Proverbs 19:21**
3. We Must Be Willing To Obey God's Will When We Discover It. God's Will Is Always In Harmony With God's Word.