

"James 4:13-17: Humble Future Planning"

Review of James: Christian love humbly submits to

- hardships as growth opportunities from God (1:1-18)
- DOING God's Word, not just hearing it (1:19-27)
- mercy and not to partiality with our neighbors (2:1-13)
- a faith in Christ that's evidenced by good works (2:14-26)
- conscientiously guarding/keeping one's tongue (3:1-12)
- seeking wisdom from above, not earthly wisdom (3:13-18)
- God to confess & curb in-fighting & worldliness (4:1-12)

Key Contextual Verse:

Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will lift you up. (v. 10)

How far in advance do you usually make plans?

Come now, you who say: "Today or tomorrow we will journey to this city and we will spend a year there, engage in business, and make a profit." (v. 13)

Long-Term Strategic Business Plan

- "today or tomorrow" ... the _____ frame
- "we will journey" ... the _____ plan
- "to this city" ... the _____
- "spend one year there" ... the _____
- "engage in business" ... the _____
- "make a profit" ... the _____

How would you _____?

Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow, for you are a vapor that appears for a little while then disappears. (v.14)

James: The plan is foolish because it completely ignores:

1) Our transitory _____!

Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath; he goes about as a shadow. ~Psalm 39:5-6

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth. ~Proverbs 27:1

2) THE sovereign _____!!!

Instead, you ought to you say: "If the Lord wills, then we will live and do this or that." (v. 15)

In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps. ~Proverbs 16:9

Many are the plans in man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails. ~Proverbs 19:21

"But I/we had it all _____..."

➔ The sin of arrogant _____!

You boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. (v. 16)

On a scale of 1 (never) to 10 (always), how often do you _____ and truly _____ your plans to God? _____

Therefore, the one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, for him it is sin. (v. 17)

How Christians Can Humbly Make Plans:

- (1) Confess our _____ so.
- (2) Submit _____ will.
- (3) Trust in His _____ and _____.
- (4) For every achievement, _____!

Early Christians wrote "DV" (Deo Volente) on their letters, meaning: _____