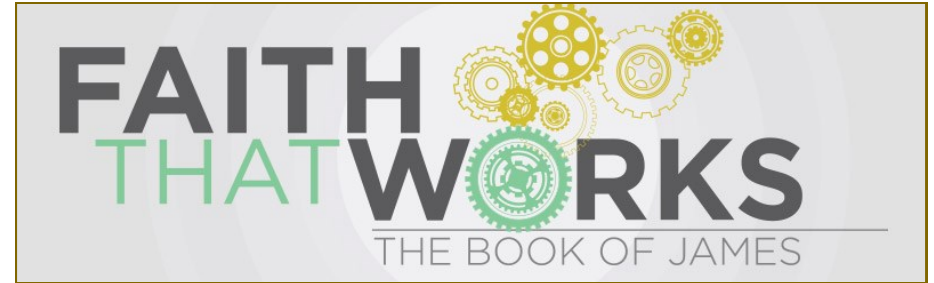


Reflection Questions: Do I plan my day, my life, with little thought of God's will? What will I do to change that? When was the last time I thought of my own death? Knowing my life is a *vapor*, how should I be living it today? What am I not doing that I know I should be doing? When will I start doing it?

How can I pray for others and our church this week?



#21 If The Lord Wills (4:13-17)

Sermon
Notes

July 28, 2019

Quotes to Ponder

There are two great certainties about things that shall come to pass — one is that God knows, and the other is that we do not know.

Charles Spurgeon

To aspire to anything without thinking to please God is a sin of which we need to repent. It is a sin for which we need to ask God's forgiveness.

James Montgomery Boice

The problem is not that it is a mistake to make plans, far less that good business planning is sinful. It is failing to live before the face of God; failing to consider time in the light of eternity; failing to live conscious of the fact that our lives are in God's hands & not our own—this is the great mistake.

Sinclair B. Ferguson

Crucial to a biblical way of approaching life is to live every day with forever in view.

Paul David Tripp

Christians have the comfort of knowing that the sovereign, omniscient, omnipotent God of the universe controls every event and circumstance of their lives and weaves them all into His perfect plan for them.

John MacArthur

Here James returned to his consistent theme through his letter: the idea that genuine faith is proved by action. However high and orthodox our view of God's law might be, a failure actually to do it says to the world that we do not in fact put much store by it.

"If the Lord wills" can become nothing more than a glib formula without any real meaning. James, rather, wants us to adopt the attitude expressed by the words as a fixed perspective from which to view all of life.

Douglas Moo

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?
2. How does *James 4:13-17* fit in with what was written in the first 12 verses of the chapter?
3. Is it wrong to make plans for the future (*James 4:13*)? Explain.
4. In what ways can we be prideful in making plans? In what ways can we be prideful in not making plans?
5. What is James' point in *James 4:14*? Is his goal to encourage or depress us? Explain.
6. Where is the right balance between thinking about life as a vapor versus not becoming morbid and depressed?
7. How does thinking about our lives as a *vapor* check our pride about our lives and how we live them?
8. What is James teaching us in *James 4:15*?
9. What are you saying about both yourself and God when you make plans according to James' command in *verse 15*?
10. What do the following verses teach about God's will?
Romans 12:1-2 — *Colossians 1:9-10, 4:12* —
Ephesians 6:6 — *Hebrews 13:20-21* —
11. Why do these business people *boast in* their *arrogance* when they make plans without considering the Lord's will (*James 4:16*)?
12. How does *James 4:17* summarize the whole of James' teaching in this chapter?
13. Read *James 4:17*. What is the difference between not doing what is wrong and doing what we know to be right?
14. Since we are so often so blind to our own pride, how can we guard against it?
15. How does *James 4:13-17* provide you with a Kingdom mindset on how you plan and spend your time and resources?

Can one utter this phrase and still be committed to their own agenda rather than God's? Explain.