

Title: Planning Without God

Text: James 4:13-17

Take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to James chapter 4. James chapter 4 beginning with Vs 13. Our subject: PLANNING WITHOUT GOD. Making plans without God is a very serious problem in the life of a Christian.

James chapter 4 beginning with Vs 13....(READ Vs 13-17)

PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, we pray that in this time together you would speak to our hearts. Father, we need to know your will for today and all our tomorrows. Help us to see the shortness of life and the necessity of knowing and believing that you in truth hold the future. Our Father, quiet our hearts before you. Let this day be a day of decision in many hearts.

We pray this in the precious name of Jesus our Lord...Amen.

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We are beginning today, a two part message concerning the fact that (6B) FAITH--REAL FAITH PRODUCES DEPENDENCE ON THE LORD. And this dependence is explained by James in two areas. (1C) The first area deals with our planning. We make plans in life without considering the Will of God. Then (2C) secondly, and we will look at this next week, the dangers of riches.

But, today, I just want to look at this whole concept of making plans without God. I would like you to notice two things in this passage about (1C) PLANNING WITHOUT GOD. (1D) First of all, verses 13 and 14, notice the SECURITY OF OUR PLANS WITHOUT GOD. Then in the last three verses (2D) James shows us our sin when we plan without God.

(1D) O.K. First of all, the security of our plans without God. What sort of security do we have in our plans? If I were to interview this congregation this morning, and would ask you what you have planned for tomorrow, next week or next year, I am sure I would find a varied of answers. I know there are wedding plans for one family in the congregation. I know that some of you are making plans for a special vacation this coming summer. I know that the Board of Christian Education is making plans for V.B.S. I know that there are a lot of plans out there. BUT, ARE WE MAKING OUR PLANS WITHOUT GOD? Are we living as though God doesn't count.

There are many Christians who only think about God on Sundays when they come to church. There are others who think about God only when they get ready to say grace at the dinner table.

The point that I am trying to make is that many of us who call ourselves Christian come to the place in our life where we no longer see that God is the one who created the universe. We forget that He is the One who designed each one of us in His image. ~~We~~ <sup>in</sup> the daily activities of a normal day, we forget that God knows exactly what we are thinking. God knows exactly what we will do. The Bible teaches that <sup>u</sup>all things are open to Him with whom we have to deal."

And that is why I say that planning without taking God into consideration is a SIN. A sin that leads into many other sins. A sin that will draw your heart away from the realization that God is present in our life at all times. Thus, ~~we become guilty of PRACTICAL ATHEISM. The assumption that God isn't important for today and tomorrows plans.~~

~~(1) Now, notice the security of our plans in these two verses. You will notice the phrase in~~ Vs 13: <sup>SAYS</sup> "YOU WHO SAY". James is telling us that there is a lot of talk about what we plan to do in the future. YOU SAY A LOT. But, God knows what is going to happen.

Vs 13.. "You say, Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."

Now, the illustration in the text is about business. But the truth here can be applied to any plans you might be making for the future <sup>without God</sup>

(2 E) *Now*, there is a second statement James makes in Vs 14 considering the question of your life <sup>What is Life?</sup> He says, "it is just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away."

When ever I read this verse my mind relates back to something that I heard many years ago. And it has to do with our possibility of knowing our universe. We have sent men into outer space. In this day in which we live, men have walked on the moon. And that is tremendous.

But, may I remind you that to go to the nearest star in our galactic it takes four light years. That is light traveling at 186 thousand miles per/sec. Think about that. If we could get a space ship to travel 186 thousand miles per/sec. Man, that would be fantastic. It would only take four years to reach the nearest star.

And you think about all of this. And you realize that there are thousand upon thousands of stars. Then ask: WHO ARE WE TRYING TO KID? WHAT IS LIFE? It is just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

Sorry about that folks. But it is true. We may live to be a <sup>90 or</sup> 100, if God wills. But, it is still a vapor - a puff of smoke that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

But, Praise God, He is eternal. And we who know the Lord are going to live forever. And that is the good news of the Gospel.

*I Believe we have it backward in our thinking*

*We say - I need to live because one day I will die.*

*We should say - Life is a process of dying so one day*

*I will live.*

What is your life? It is a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Turn in your Bibles to Psalms chapter 39. The book of Psalms chapter 39 and verse 4. David, who is a great king and a very brilliant man, entrusted with a great empire, a man who was considered by God as one after His own heart, said, Vs 4.. "Lord, make me to know my end, and what is the extent of my days, Let me know how transient I am."

You know, that is a great discovery. To learn what we are. What is our life, in comparison to God and His great plan and His program for the future. "O Lord, help me to know how transient I am."

Now, look at Vs 5.. (Read Vs 5,6-7)

What a beautiful discription of each one of us and where our hope should be place. WHAT IS LIFE? "It is a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away." *But My Hope is Placed in Thee, O Lord*

Turn to the gospel of Luke, please. The gospel of Luke chapter 12 verse 16. Here is the story of a rich fool. The Bible says he was a fool, this rich man. He could be any number of <sup>people</sup> men, today, filled with the abundance of this life. Believing that "things" will bring happiness and this is what we should ~~live~~ <sup>LIVE</sup> for. What does Jesus say. Luke chapter 12 verse 16... (READ VS 16-18)

That is like saying I am living for the weekend. Last weekend was a bumer. This weekend has got to be better. I bought a T.V. a few years ago. It was great. But, now I need a more up to date T.V. And on and on it goes. And people are assuming that "things" will bring them the happiness they desire. But, our life is like a vapor.

Now, notice what Jesus says about this rich man. Vs 19... (Read)

Much of our thinking today is along that line. Look at all we have.... live it up..... We only have one life.... *EAT, DRINK, and Be Merry.*

Vs 20.... (READ VS 20-21)

Jesus said on another occasion--"What good is it if a man gain the whole world and loses his soul? What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Dear friends, what is life? It is just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. We have no guarantee of how long we will live. We don't know what tomorrow holds. That is why we sing. *With Confidence and Undisturbed*

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.

Because He lives, all fear is gone;

Because I know He holds the future

And life is worth the living just because He lives.

Dear friends, there is no security in making plans without God. He is the one who knows the beginning from the end. He is our security for now and for all our tomorrows, *when our hope is placed in Him Back to James, please*

(2 ) This brings us to the final three verses in James .Here, we will see the real sin that is behind these plans of ours, *when we Plan Without God* There are three things that we need *basic steps here*

(1E) Number one. Vs 15 says, "Instead, you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that."

Now, I believe the sin that James is driving at--the sin that is behind our plans that we make without God - is the sin of indifference. We are indifferent to God. "If the Lord wills, we shall to this or that." That is the way we should look at things. When we do not look at things in this manner, then we are indifferent to God and His will. Because the Bible clearly teaches that He is a sovereign God. That He knows all things.

If God didn't know what I was going to do tomorrow, He couldn't possible be God. If God didn't know what I was going to do a year from now, He wouldn't be a sovereign..all knowing...all wise God. He knows all things. That is what makes Him God and not man. He knows everything we are thinking. He knows the motives of our hearts. And to plan without God is to live as if God wasn't around. That is indifference. And indifference in the Bible is sin.

(2E) Secondly, notice what James says in Vs 16: "But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil."

We get to the point where we think we are going to live tomorrow. We got all of our plans made. And we boast about them. We tell others about them. We take pride in them. And all of our hops and dreams are out there in the future. WHAT IS JAMES SAYING. He is saying that we are insensitive to the real problem. The problem of self. Hay! Man! I don't need God. I can plan and run my life without God. Thus, the real problem is ourselves. We don't want to be shown where the problem really is. It is self. And in this struggle of God's demand upon us and His claims upon our lives is the war of self vs God. We don't want to make that decision for God.

Dear friends, may I remind you that one day we will have to give an account to God of our life. The Bible teaches that everyone shall give an account of himself to God. This is a very serious matter. The sin of self-pride.

(3E) Then third, <sup>Concerning</sup> the sin of planning without God, notice Vs 17.. "Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin."

Here we find the sin of indecision. We know what we should do. Yet we don't do it. We know what is right. We know that God has a claim on our life. We know we should yield to the Holy Spirit so that He can control us. We know we should be witnessing and inviting people to church. We know all of that.

Well, then, what are we waiting for? Why don't we make that decision? "To the one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin"

WHAT IS THE POINT? The one who knows that he should plan his life with God's direction and control and does not, that is sin.

Some folks say.. "Yes, I know that I should make a decision for Christ. I know I should settle this war that is going on in my life. But, I can do that next week...But, Jesus said that that is sin. It is sin to say I will wait unto ~~Tom~~ tomorrow. God has brought you to a place of decision, and when you do not make it..it is sin.

Yes, I know as a Christian I should be baptized, or ..I should <sup>be</sup> going the church. But, not today. I will wait. "The one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin."

Dear friends, I do not know what God has said to you today. But, if you have no assurance or confidence in your heart that Jesus is your Lord and saviour, may I remind you that Jesus is saviour of the world regardless of what you do about it. But, HE IS MY SAVIOUR ONLY THROUGH PERSONAL FAITH. His death and sacrifice on the cross for my sin..His payment for my sin.. is NEVER APPLIED to my account UNTIL I accept Him as Saviour.

You must understand. To believe in Jesus is not simply agreeing to a set of facts. It is to put your trust, your confidence, your hope for the future entirely upon Jesus Christ. It is a decisive act on your part to invite Jesus into your life.

The Bible say, "By grace (that is God's grace) are you saved through faith --not of ourselves--it is the gift of God."

Salvation is a gift of God by faith. What does God want to do in your life today? He want to save you. He wants to give you eternal life. NOT TOMORROW BUT TODAY. RIGHT NOW. It is a simple decision of faith. And I pray that you will invite Jesus to come into your life, right now.

Shall we close in prayer