

God In Our Plans

TEXT: James 4:13-17

INTRODUCTION:

- A. THERE SEEMS TO BE A REBUKE OF MAKING PLANS (vs. 13).
 - 1. We are **encouraged to plan** – to prepare for the future (**Luke 16:8; 14:28**).
 - 2. Paul planned (**Acts 18:20-21; Rom. 15:22-28; Phil. 1:25-26; 2:23-24**).
 - 3. Wisdom demands **looking ahead** (**Prov 15:21-22; Eph. 5:15-16**).
- B. THINGS WE OUGHT TO PLAN: Marriage, job, school, vacations, retirement, etc.
- C. JAMES DISCUSSES THE **MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR** ANY MAKING ANY PLAN.
- D. IT IS A FACTOR **MOST OFTEN LEFT OUT**, HENCE THE REBUKE.

I. A SPIRIT OF VAIN CONFIDENCE REBUKED (vs. 13).

- A. CAPITALISM NOT REBUKED.
 - 1. He is very far from stigmatizing commercial enterprise as a form of worldliness.
 - 2. He doesn't condemn such, **if it be contemplated in subordination to God's will**, and **not be allowed to interfere with service to God** (**Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:10**).
 - 3. He rebukes those who plan without taking into account:
 - a. **What God wants** (vs. 15; **Matt. 13:22; Luke 12:16-21**).
 - b. Or even the **uncertainty of human life** (**Psa. 49:11; Isa. 56:12**).
- B. WHAT IS CONDEMNED IS **THE SPIRIT OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY** IN REGARD TO THE CONTINUANCE OF LIFE THAT TENDS TO SHUT GOD OUT (vs. 16).

II. THE GROUNDS OF THE REBUKE. (vs. 14-17.)

- A. A **FOOLISH AND IRRATIONAL SPIRIT** (vs. 14).
 - 1. A **love of the world**. "Trade, and get gain." (**1 John 2:15-17; Matt. 6:19-21**).
 - 2. A **false view of life**. "Spend a year there."
 - a. The transiency of life in itself. "A vapor." (**Psa. 39:5; 90:4**).
 - b. The permanence of its spiritual results: left for inference, how immensely important every moment now! So (**Psa. 90:12; 39:13**).
- B. AN IMPIOUS AND WICKED SPIRIT (vs. 15-17).
 - 1. **Sets at naught the will of God** (**Heb. 10:28-29; 5:12**).
 - a. Our destinies are in the hands of God (**Matt. 10:28; Heb. 10:31**).
 - b. Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed (**Heb. 2:1-3**).
 - 2. **Procrastinates** his obedience.
 - a. Something else always comes first.
 - b. How long do we have? (vs. 13-14; **1 Thess. 5:2-3**).

III. OUR DEPENDENCE ON DOING THE LORD'S WILL (vs. 15).

- A. OURS IS A LIFE OF **SUBJECTION** TO GOD'S WILL (**James 4:7; Rom. 6:12-18**).
- B. GOING TO HEAVEN DEPENDS ON **DOING HIS WILL** (**Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9**).
 - 1. It has to be **most important** (**Matt. 6:33**).
 - 2. Ahead of those things most precious (**Luke 14:26-27**) Full Self-Sacrifice.
 - 3. Total submission like Jesus (**Matt. 26:39, 42**).
- C. GOD EXPRESSES HIS WILL IN THE BIBLE (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**).
- D. HIS GRACE IS EXTENDED TO ALL THROUGH HIS WORD (**Titus 2:11-12**).

- E. YET MANY ARE LOST (**Matt. 7:13-14**), GRACE CAN BE RESISTED (**2 Cor. 6:1**).
- F. IF NOT BY OUTRIGHT REJECTION, BY NEGLECT (**James 4:17; Heb. 2:1-3**).
- G. NOW IS ALL WE HAVE (**2 Cor. 6:2**). TO PUT IT OFF IS TO TELL GOD NO.

CONCLUSION:

- A. WISDOM DICTATES WE USE OUR TIME WISELY (**Eph. 5:15-16**).
- B. FELIX WAITED FOR A CONVENIENT SEASON (**Acts 24:25**). IT NEVER CAME.
- C. WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? (**Acts 8:36; 22:16**).