

**James 4:13-17**

**PLANNING**

**OUR**

**FUTURE**



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# PLANNING OUR FUTURE

## ✦ **Not Wrong To Plan For The Future!**

- \* Plans for college,
- \* Plans for a career
- \* Plans for marriage,
- \* Plans for family
- \* Plans for vacation,
- \* Plans for retirement
- \* Plans for church growth





# PLANNING OUR FUTURE

- ✦ **Not Wrong To Plan For The Future**
- ✦ **We Need To Understand The Limit of Our Control Over The Future!**
- ✦ **God's Will Needs To Be Considered In All of Our Plans!**



# PLANNING OUR FUTURE

## **James 4:13-17 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit";

<sup>14</sup> whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.



# PLANNING OUR FUTURE

## **James 4:13-17 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." <sup>16</sup> But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

# PLANNING OUR FUTURE

## THE PROBLEM OF SELF CONFIDENCE - (13)

Merchants planning a business trip –

### **James 4:13 (NKJV)**

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit";

- ✦ **Planned a time to start** –  
"Today or tomorrow" –
- ✦ **Planned the place to trade** –  
"Such and such a city"
- ✦ **Planned how long the venture would last** – "Spend a year there"
- ✦ **Planned their activities** –  
"Buy and sell"
- ✦ **Planned the results** –  
"And make a profit."



# PLANNING OUR FUTURE

## THE PROBLEM OF SELF CONFIDENCE - (13)

### **James 4:13 (NKJV)**

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit";

- ✦ Their sin was not in "planning for the future" but rather leaving God's will out of their plans – (Note verse 15)
- ✦ Planning that takes God's will prayerfully into consideration is NOT wrong and in fact necessary! - Acts 15:36; 18:20-21; 1 Co 16:5-9
- ✦ How can we know God's will in all of these areas? - 2 Tim 2:15; Mat 6:33; Jam. 1:5; Rom. 8:28

# PLANNING OUR FUTURE

## THE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE & CONTROL - (14)

### **James 4:14 (NKJV)**

whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

- ✦ **We Do Not Know What Will Happen Tomorrow!** - Proverbs 27:1; Luke 12:19,20; 2 Cor. 6:2
- ✦ **We Cannot Control What Happens Tomorrow** – (*Life itself is Uncertain*) –
  - ☞ Life is FRAIL (14b) - Ps 39:5-6,11; Jas 1:10-11;
  - ☞ Life is BRIEF (14c) - Job 9:25-26; Job 14:1; 1 Jn 2:17



# PLANNING OUR FUTURE

## THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE ON PLANNING — (IS)

**James 4:15**  
**(NKJV)**

Instead you  
ought to say, "If  
the Lord wills,  
we shall live and  
do this or that."

- ✦ **Contingent on God's approval**  
- Col. 3:17; 1:10; 1 Thes 4:1; 1 John 3:22
- ✦ **Contingent on God's plan —**  
Deut. 29:29; Ac 18:21; Mat 26:39; Rom. 8:28
- ✦ **Contingent on God's permission —** Acts 16:6-10; 1 Co 16:7; Heb. 6:3; Job 1:6-12



# PLANNING OUR FUTURE

## PLANNING WITHOUT GOD IS BOASTFUL, ARROGANT AND EVIL (16)

**James 4:16  
(NKJV)**

But now you  
boast in your  
arrogance. All  
such boasting is  
evil.

✦ **To plan without taking  
into consideration  
God's will is to set  
ourselves up above  
God!- 16; Ps. 52:7**

✦ **Such boasting is evil –  
16; Is. 47:7-10**



# PLANNING OUR FUTURE

## DON'T PROCRASTINATE - TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TODAY — (16,17)

**James 4:17  
(NKJV)**

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

✦ **We should take advantage of the opportunities presented today – 2 Cor. 6:2; Acts 24:25**

- ➡ Thousands of things will vie for our time every day!
- ➡ We need to distinguish between the “Urgent” things and the “Important” things –
- ➡ Time needs to be on a budget as much as our money



# PLANNING OUR FUTURE

## DON'T PROCRASTINATE - TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TODAY — (16,17)

**James 4:17**  
**(NKJV)**

Therefore, to  
him who knows  
to do good and  
does not do it, to  
him it is sin.

✦ **We should take advantage of  
the opportunities presented  
today — 2 Cor. 6:2; Acts 24:25**

- ➡ Someone is sick or in need and they ask you to help - you have a choice . . .
- ➡ Someone ask you about studying the Bible with them - you have a choice . . .



# PLANNING OUR FUTURE

## DON'T PROCRASTINATE - TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TODAY — (16,17)

**James 4:17**  
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✦ **We should take advantage of  
the opportunities presented  
today — 2 Cor. 6:2; Acts 24:25**

**Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NKJV)**

Whatever your hand finds to do,  
do it with your might; for there is  
no work or device or knowledge  
or wisdom in the grave where  
you are going.

# PLANNING OUR FUTURE

## HOW DO WE MAKE OUR PLANS?



- ✦ **We can't change the past** - but we can determine to use wisely what we have learned & experienced.
- ✦ **We are limited by time and ability** - but we should do what we can today.
- ✦ **We can plan wisely for our future** - but the only way to do so is to make God and His kingdom our priority in each day!



# PLANNING OUR FUTURE

- ✦ **The Problem Of Self Confidence - (13)**
- ✦ **The Lack of Knowledge & Control - (14)**
- ✦ **The Right Perspective On Planning - (15)**
- ✦ **It Is Arrogant To Plan Without Considering God's Will - (16)**
- ✦ **Don't Procrastinate - Take Advantage of Today - (17)**







# PLANNING OUR FUTURE

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