

A silhouette of a person stands on a beach with their arms raised in a gesture of triumph or prayer. The background is a warm sunset over the ocean, with the sun low on the horizon and its light reflecting on the water. The person is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing away from the viewer towards the sea.

PLANNING OUR FUTURE

James 4:13-17

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)

¹³ 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"; ¹⁴ 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)

¹⁵ Instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." ¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ 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)
- ✦ 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

THE PROBLEM OF SELF CONFIDENCE - (13)

MERCHANTS PLANNING A BUSINESS TRIP —

- ✦ **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.”

An hourglass with dark sand is positioned on the left side of the slide. The background features a person walking away from the viewer, creating a sense of time passing. The title is written in a large, stylized font at the top right.

PLANNING OUR FUTURE

THE PROBLEM OF SELF CONFIDENCE - (13)

- ✦ 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)

- ✦ **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

An hourglass with a wooden frame and a woman with long dark hair, wearing a white tank top and blue jeans, standing next to it. She is looking at the sand falling from the top bulb to the bottom bulb. The background is a warm, textured yellow.

PLANNING OUR FUTURE

THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE ON PLANNING – (IS)

- ✦ **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** – 1 Co 16:7; Heb. 6:3; Job 1:6-12; 1 Thes 2:15

An hourglass with a wooden frame and glass bulbs, filled with dark sand. A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white tank top and blue jeans, stands with her back to the camera, looking at the hourglass. The background is a warm, textured yellow.

PLANNING OUR FUTURE

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

- ✦ **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)

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

- Studying the Bible —
- Attend every service possible
- Visit the sick —
- Giving —
- Personal work —
- Praying —

**ABILITY PLUS OPPORTUNITY
EQUALS RESPONSIBILITY**

PLANNING OUR FUTURE

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An hourglass with a wooden frame and glass bulbs, set against a textured, parchment-like background. The hourglass is positioned on the left side of the slide, with its top bulb partially visible at the top and its bottom bulb extending towards the bottom. The central text is enclosed in a white rectangular box with a thin red border.

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Note: Sources -

Practical Christianity - By David L. Roper

The Book of James - BY J.J. Turner

The "Executable Outlines" Series,

By Mark A. Copeland, 1999

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