

God Centered Plans

2018 Mark Beard

Text: James 4:13-17 NIV

¹³Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” ¹⁴Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

Introduction

Human arrogance is often the source of many failed plans. James challenges our thought and planning process through his *questions* in verses 13-14.

I. How Can We Be So Confident in The Unknown (v.13-14)?

A. Everything beyond this moment is unknown, only God has control of the future.

B. Only God can be confident in the future because He has all power.

II. How Can We Fail See Our Limitations (v.13-14)?

A. Do we really want to place our confidence solely in our own ability?

B. It is God’s ability that sustains us today and tomorrow.

III. How Have We Forgotten God Is the Only One Truly in Control (v.15-17)?

A. We must submit our will to His will.

B. We must humble ourselves under His mighty hand.

Conclusion

The *questions* James uses to confront our human way of thinking should cause us to pause and question if human arrogance could be getting in the way of us having God-centered plans for our life.