

Lessons For The Church Lessons For You!

"Oh, Come on Now..."

Reference: **James 4:13-17**

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Perhaps one of the most prevalent sins of our modern day is simply leaving God out of our lives. When one talks, plans, and even implements those plans with a total disregard for the will of God, regardless of what they may say they believe, they are out of line. The test of what one believes is not found in what one says, but in how one lives.

I. The Wrong Way to Deal with the Future

Three common mistakes in dealing with the future:

Mistake #1: Planning without God (v. 13)

1. What is under consideration here is not open defiance of God, but of an utter disregard for God. This is an attitude of arrogant self-sufficiency.
2. It is possible for one to acknowledge God's existence with their mouth and yet live their daily life in such a fashion as to deny in a practical way all that they say. It is a plea for us to re-exam ourselves and it expresses disapproval of this way of thinking.

Mistake #2: Presuming to Know the Future (v. 14)

1. The key word to understanding verse 14 is the word, *"know."*
 - a. The Greek word conveys the idea of *"knowing for sure or being absolutely certain."*
 - b. Since it is impossible, to know what the future holds, their decision making is highly presumptuous.
2. The futility of their attitude is shown by exposing the assumptions of which it rests. There is a failure to comprehend the purpose of life.
3. *"For what is your life?"* With that question James seeks to lead us by answering it to a proper attitude toward life.
 - a. Implicit in our Scripture lesson is James' answer: Life is a gift.
 - b. The way we look at life makes all the difference in the world.

4. There is a failure to comprehend the complexity of life. Reference: **Proverbs 27:1**
5. A biblical example of this type of thinking is found in the parable to the rich fool (**Luke 12:16-21**). Failing to consider God in our plans is to pledge one's self to ultimate disaster.
6. There is a failure to comprehend the uncertainty of life. We must invest our lives in those things that are eternal.

Mistake #3: Delay of what should be done today (v. 17)

1. The sin of omission - Sin is not only doing something wrong; it is the failure to do something right.
2. Knowledge of what is right and the ability to do it creates the obligation to do so. Our failure to have such a submissive attitude leaves us without excuse.

II. The Right Way to Deal with the Future (vv. 15-17)

- A. We need to acknowledge God's will for our lives.
- B. James is reminding us that our dependence should be on the Lord rather than a well thought out plan.

III. Closing – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

The time for obedience is always now!!!
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