

## James 4:13-17

### *Living according to God's Plan*

Whether we are anticipating a weekend trip, planning for college or setting long-term goals, the future can occupy a lot of our thinking. With this in mind, our passage today gives us important advice as we daydream about the future.

> What fact must we remember when making plans for the future according to verses 13-14a? The realization that we do not know for sure what tomorrow (the future) will bring.

> What is the key to successful planning according to v. 15? Recognizing our plans will come to pass "if the Lord wills."

> Make plans without considering the Lord's will is called "boasting" and being "arrogant" (v. 16). Why is that? Because only God holds the future, we can't forget about Him when planning.

> Regarding this topic (or any topic in the Bible), verse 17 tells us that sin is not only doing sinful things, but also failing to do right things that we know we should do.

### **Application**

When we look to the future, it can be easy to forget about God. But He is sovereign and in control, we are not. Countless factors (weather, health, setbacks, etc.) can instantly change everything. But the right perspective can also change everything. Focusing on God's will:

- Enables us to handle the unexpected things in life.
- Keeps our priorities in order.
- Places the Lord in the center of our plans.

To see what the Lord holds for our future is exciting and something to look forward to. The events of our lives (even life itself) are in His hands, so give Him His rightful place at the center of your goals and ambitions (Prov. 16:9; 19:21)!

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