

## **STOP PLANNING WITHOUT GOD**

(James 4:13-17)

It is common to begin a new year by the writing of goals and plans to be accomplished in the coming year. This is a good thing and it helps us to be productive. There is nothing wrong with planning. In doing so, we reflect the Lord, Who has a plan that includes all things.

However, we have a problem when we do our planning and leave God out of the picture, little thinking about our true condition and the uncertainty of life.

Pastor James writes to his scattered church directing them (and us) to stop such a practice. For such a practice reveals a wrong way of thinking. Stop it!

### **THREE INSIGHTS HELPING US TO HAVE THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE OF LIFE...for we are totally and utterly dependent upon the Lord.**

#### **I. For Many Of Us As Christians, God Is Not A Part Of Our Planning. (v.13)**

James is attempting to expose and eliminate this form of worldiness, for it is living with the illusion of being independent of God.

- A. James imagines a gathering of Christian businessmen making their plans with no thought of God.
  - 1. Every step of their plan is detailed with absolute assurance, with no thought of God's providence. No thought is entertained as to God's will for them.
  - 2. "today and tomorrow" are assumed to be in their complete control and power. They exude with a self-assertiveness, centeredness, and confidence.
- B. It is assumed by these that the journey is certain to be safe and the business will be profitable. Also, they assume that the year is at their disposal. "spend a year"
- C. We, like they, often forget that our plans are always tentative at best. Never forget: your plans are not your own, your time is not your own, and your life is not your own!  
James is not condemning planning, just the planning that that leaves God out.
- D. All of this sounds like the story Jesus told in Luke 12:16-21.

#### **II. The Solution For This Is To Remember How Small, Weak, And Frail We Really Are. (v.14)**

We are totally dependent upon the Lord for everything.

- A. James tells us that we are so deficient that "we do not know what will happen tomorrow."

