

Planning Your Future

JAMES 4:13-16

Dr. Matt Shackelford

■ Central Church

■ January 16, 2022

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Planning Your Future:

1. Consider life's _____ (13-14a).

2. Contemplate life's _____ (14b).

3. Consult life's _____ (15-16).

James 4:13-16 (ESV)

“Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.”

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Man tends to put himself in the place of God. This section of the book of James is written to address the topic of pride. Here we see another manifestation of pride in our presumptive living. He lives as if he is the captain of his own fate. How does this sin of pride reveal itself in your life?
2. This passage shows us that man has laughably “poor sight” when it comes to the future. Since we’re tempted to live with such proud presumption, how should man make plans that glorify God?
3. There’s nothing quite as sobering as thinking about your end. Why does man tend to avoid thoughts along these lines? How could considering our destiny change us for the better?
4. Life is a vapor and a gift not to be wasted. What experience in your life confirms this truth? Where is the right balance between thinking about life as a vapor versus not becoming morbid and depressed? How does the gospel release this tension? (Read the Quote Below).
5. The men James addresses were most likely blind to this sin. They were just living “life as usual.” Since we too are often blind to our own pride, how do we guard against such pride?

Quote for the Week. . .

by Dr. Albert Mohler

“What does it really mean to affirm God’s sovereignty...? It means that God rules over all space and time and history. It means that He created the world for His glory and directs the cosmos to His purpose. It means that no one can truly thwart His plans or frustrate His determination. It means that we are secure in the knowledge that God’s sovereign purpose to redeem a people through the atonement accomplished by His Son will be fully realized.”

