

WHEN PLANNING, BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE LORD

(James 4:13-17)

I. THE CONDITION MANIFESTING WORLDLINESS (4:1-6)

II. THE SOLUTION TO WORLDLINESS (4:7-10)

III. THE PROBLEM WITH JUDGING EACH OTHER (4:11-12)

IV. THE PROBLEM OF PRESUMPTUOUS PLANNING (4:13-17)

A. A Condemnation Against the Attitude of Arrogance (4:13-15)

1. This scenario can easily be observed today— people plan _____ they will go, _____ they will go, _____ they will stay, and the purpose is to make a financial profit. (v. 13)
2. Planning is _____ evil, nor is the desire to make a profit wrong, it is actually _____ to plan ahead; but the problem that James addresses is not factoring the _____ into those plans. (cf. Luke 12:18-20; John 15:5).
3. How _____ for a business man to make plans for a whole year when he wasn't even guaranteed tomorrow; our plans are _____ tentative. (v. 14a, cf. Prov. 27:1)
4. We measure our lives in _____ and by _____ (Ps. 90:12), but relative to eternity our lives are but a _____, a puff of steam- here today and gone tomorrow. (v. 14b, cf. Job 7:6; 8:9; 9:25-26; 14:1-2; Ps. 39:5; 144:3-4)

5. When you make plans, especially the bigger decisions of life, you should always have a _____ in seeking the Lord's _____ in the matter. (v. 15, cf. Acts 18:20-21; 1 Cor. 4:19; 16:7; Philip. 2:19, 24)

6. A study of the use of this conditional clause "*If the Lord wills...*" in the N.T. makes it clear that we are _____ to repeat it mechanically in connection with _____ statement of future plans. (John 4:34; Rom. 1:10; 15:32)

B. The Evil of Their Present Attitude (4:16-17)

1. A believer may brag about controlling his own future or being a "self-made man"; but the reality is, this kind of " _____ is _____ " in God's eyes. (v. 16; cf. 1 John 2:15-17)

2. If you are making plans for the future you should not _____ to be omniscient nor omnipotent, but rather _____ before the Lord is always your best choice. (James 4:6, 10)

3. James reminded his readers to put their _____ into _____; to know what is right and then not do it would be a sin of _____. (v. 17)

* How can you personally apply this truth in your own life?