

## MANAGING YOUR MORTALITY

### VITALS – Part 1

James 4:13-17

Pastor Brian

<sup>13</sup> Look here, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.” <sup>14</sup> How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it’s here a little while, then it’s gone. <sup>15</sup> What you ought to say is, “If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.” <sup>16</sup> Otherwise you are boasting about your own plans, and all such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it. James 4:13–17 (NLT)

### 3 COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

#### 1. MISTAKE #1: PRIDE

“Look here, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.”” (James 4:13, NLT)

#### THE SOLUTION: LOOK TO GOD

“What you ought to say is, “If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.”” (James 4:15, NLT)

“We may make our plans, but God has the last word.” (Proverbs 16:1, GNB)

“We should make plans—counting on God to direct us.” (Proverbs 16:9, The Living Bible)

#### 2. MISTAKE #2: PRESUMPTION

“How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it’s here a little while, then it’s gone...you are boasting about your own plans, and all such boasting is evil.” (James 4:14, 16, NLT)

“LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered— how fleeting my life is. You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; at best, each of us is but a breath.”  
Interlude We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it.” (Psalm 39:4–6, NLT)

“Our days on earth are like grass; like wildflowers, we bloom and die.” (Psalm 103:15, NLT)

*"Come," they say, "let's get some wine and have a party. Let's all get drunk. Then tomorrow we'll do it again and have an even bigger party!" (Isaiah 56:12, NLT)*

*"Don't brag about tomorrow, since you don't know what the day will bring." (Proverbs 27:1, NLT)*

**THE SOLUTION: HOLD YOUR PLANS LOOSELY**

*"So don't be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time." (Matthew 6:34, The Living Bible)*

**3. MISTAKE #3: PROCRASTINATION**

*"Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it." (James 4:17, NLT)*

**THE SOLUTION: DO IT NOW!**

*"Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them. If you can help your neighbor now, don't say, 'Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you.'"*  
(Proverbs 3:27–28, NLT)

*"Then he told them a story: 'A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!" ' "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'" (Luke 12:16–20, NLT)*

*"...Right now God is ready to welcome you. Today he is ready to save you." (2 Corinthians 6:2, The Living Bible)*

**ACTION STEP:**

**CLASS 101**

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday February 11<sup>th</sup>**