



Title: Practical Living: Boasting

Scripture: James 4:13-17

Date: 07152018

Bible Version: NKJV

BOTTOM LINE: As followers of Christ, we can trust that the Father has sovereign control over our lives.

Vs. 13

Come now- James is effectively saying come and hear what I have to say.

Today or tomorrow- James turns his attention to the business leaders of his community. They had a custom of trading from city to city.

Vs. 14

You do not know what will happen tomorrow- James reminds us that we do not know what will happen tomorrow.

No matter how much we plan for the future, we are not in control, God is.

It is even a vapor- James uses a wonderful metaphor that would be known to his audience. The idea of a vapor and shadow were used frequently in the Old Testament

[Job 8:9 NKJV] For we [were born] yesterday, and know nothing, Because our days on earth [are] a shadow.

[1Ch 29:15 NKJV] For we [are] aliens and pilgrims before You, As [were] all our fathers; Our days on earth [are] as a shadow, And without hope.

Our life is a vapor and is short, live your life for the glory of God.

James rebuked the kind of heart that lives and makes its plans apart from a constant awareness of the hand of God.- Guzik

There are two great certainties about things that shall come to pass, one is that God knows, and the other is that we do not know. - Spurgeon

James does not discourage us from planning and doing, only from planning and doing apart from reliance on God. - Guzik

Vs. 15

If the Lord wills- James gives his audience some incredible wisdom to live by.

There is a better way to live our lives. Live by this statement: If the Lord wills it.

Vs. 16

You boast in your arrogance- James tells us that we boast in our arrogance.

It is nothing but sheer arrogance that makes us think that we can live and move and have our being apart from God. - Guzik

All such boasting is evil- James states that our boasting is evil. Boasting in ourselves if prideful.

If you know what's right, but hide behind the excuse of waiting for God's leading before doing it, it's sin.- Courson

Vs. 17

Therefore- Anytime we see a therefore in the scriptures we have to stop and ask what is therefore there for. Considering everything James has said...

To him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin-
James has given us a warning. We cannot plead ignorance. If know what is good, then do it.

The truth is that it is far easier to think about and talk about humility and dependence on God than it is to live it. - Guzik

[Psa 37:23 NKJV] The steps of a [good] man are ordered by the LORD,
And He delights in his way.

July 15th, 2018

Discuss

Dig Deeper



Practical Living: Boasting
James 4:13-17

3D Guide

BOTTOM LINE: God's grace abounds and is available to everyone.

DO.

1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



DISCUSS.



1. Define boasting in your own words.
2. Read Verse 14:
 1. Is it comforting to not know what is happening tomorrow?
 2. How does it make you feel knowing that your life is like a vapor
3. Verse 15 says we should ask "if the Lord wills". Talk about practical ways we can seek out the Lord's will for our lives.

DO.



Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try a the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.



Parents & Kids

TAKE **HOME**

DATE: July 15th, 2018

Bible Story: The First 7 Days (Genesis 1-2)

1. God shows us His love for us by providing us with everything that we need! What are some blessings in your life that have come from God?
2. What was God's ultimate act of love for us? (He sent His son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us)
3. From Adam and Eve to Jesus being born and dying on the cross for us, we can see how God had a plan for history. Even though Adam and Eve didn't obey God, He still had a plan to forgive them (and us) for our sin. Even though Noah might not have understood why God asked him to build a giant ark, God had a plan to save him, his family and the animals from the flood. God's plan is to love and save us, no matter what we do! And we can read about examples that prove this in our Bible! In fact, God loves us so much that He made all of us a promise. What did God promise us will happen if we love Him and believe in Jesus? (We will spend forever with God in heaven!)

Memory Verse: "Be good to me, your servant, so that I may live to obey your word. Open my eyes so that I can see all of the wonderful things in your teachings." (Psalm 119:17-18)

