



Investing Wisely

Sermon 2 – How Do We Spend Our Time?

Pastor Todd

January 22, 2023

MAIN SCRIPTURE: James 4:13-16 (NLT)

¹³ 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." ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil.

Opening Discussion

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

(Below you will find the main points of this week's sermon along with discussion questions. Feel free to use, reword, or omit questions depending on the needs of your group and the time needed for prayer, care, and fellowship. Thank you for your leadership.)

Thought #1 – God is the Lord of the outcomes!

Verses: James 4:13-16

- Pastor Todd said, "In our passage, James is not saying that we should not make plans. Instead, the problem occurs when we spend our time imagining or assuming that WE are in control of the outcomes of life?" Read our key passage again. What paradigm change or attitude adjustment is James asking us to make?
 - How should this shift affect our planning or the way we spend our time?

- Sometimes, as Believers, we can be SO convinced that "bad people" who do "bad things" must absolutely receive "bad consequences" that we are stunned by any showing of grace that God might give to the "undeserving". In the same way, sometimes, as Believers, we can be SO convinced that "good people" who do "good things" must absolutely receive "good consequences" that we bang our fists and stomp our feet in utter dismay and disappointment that God would not give us what we imagine we rightfully deserve. Why is it so difficult to understand and accept the fact that God is the Lord of the outcomes? Have you struggled with this? How?

Thought #2 – Life is a mist, a vapor!

Verses: James 4:13-16

- Life is a gift. Absolutely! However, James is doing more than encouraging us to appreciate life. He is trying to help us understand a different way of spending our time. In the sermon Pastor Todd introduced 6 ways that might help us invest our time more wisely. How might the following 6 encouragements (along with each scripture verse) help us be better stewards of our time:
 1. Let's spend our time paying attention. (I Thessalonians 5:6)
 2. Let's spend our time praying. (Ephesians 6:18)
 3. Let's spend our time peace-making/peace-keeping. (Romans 12:18)
 4. Let's spend our time pursuing others. (Philippians 2:4)
 5. Let's spend our time promoting Jesus. (Matthew 6:33)
 6. Let's spend our time praising God. (Psalm 34:1)
 - What do you imagine the result of time spent this way might be? For you? Your family? Our church? Our community?
 - It's time for a check-up. Of these 6 practices, which are you fairly good and consistent with practicing? Which come pretty naturally to you or have become well-practiced in your own life? Which do you struggle with and need more intentionality?

