

JAMES 4:10-17

Sometimes we are guilty of:

1. Setting goals WITHOUT God.

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." ¹⁵ What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that."
– **James 4:13,15**

Possible attitudes towards God's will:

- a. REFER to it.
- b. DEFER to it.
- c. PREFER it.

2. Presuming about TOMORROW.

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. – **James 4:14**

¹ Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.
– **Proverbs 27:1** (NIV)

3. Putting OFF what is right.

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

We need to:

4. Make GOOD things, ultimate things.

¹⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple."
– **Luke 14:26** (NIV)

- How would you describe the overall train of thought or theme of this section of chapter 4 (even going back to verse 4)? These paragraphs may seem at first like James is jumping from one topic to another, but what unifies these paragraphs? How does this help you understand what James is saying in each paragraph?
- What does James mean by "speaking against... fellow believers" (v. 11)? What are some examples of this? Why is this destructive?
- What is the difference between being a "doer" of the law versus being a "judge" of the law (v. 11-12)? Why can't someone be both? (Perhaps the overall "theme" of this chapter can help as you think about this.)
- How should we react to believers that we think are in the wrong (**Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20**)?
- How does verse 13 describe the philosophy of the world? Why is this wrong (v. 16)?
- Do verses 13-16 condemn *all* planning? How can we make plans in a God-honoring way (v. 15)? Is it just that we should mechanically add the phrase "God-willing" when we describe our plans, or does it go deeper than that? What should be our overall attitude as we live in the present and plan for the future?
- Why does James end this section of his letter with the statement in verse 17? How does this relate to the previous verses?