

My Plans vs. God's Plan – James 4:13-17

1. Making plans apart from God (v. 13-14)

a. Two reasons why this is foolish (v. 14)

- We have no idea what tomorrow will bring.

* Proverbs 27:1, Ecclesiastes 8:7

- We have no control of our time on earth.

* Psalm 139:16, Job 14:5 - God has my days numbered.

b. What does the Bible say about God's plan?

- Proverbs 19:21 – Whose plan will ultimately win out?

- Jeremiah 29:11, Romans 2:28 – What kind of plan is God's plan for us?

- Proverbs 3:5-6 – How can we know that we are in God's plan?

2. Should a Christian bother with making plans? (v. 15)

a. "If the Lord wills" – We must acknowledge that whatever our plans are, God's plan will ultimately be best and may be different than ours.

b. Proverbs 6:6-11 – We are to take the example of the ant!

- They prepare for the future winter.

- They are hard workers when preparing.

- They are not lazy.

c. Proverbs 3:6 – Acknowledge God

- "Acknowledge" = to know by experience, to make known

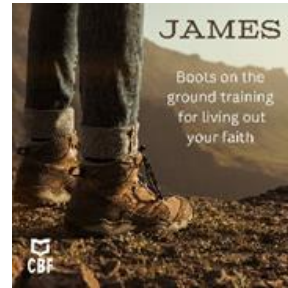
* We need to know Him better – we seek Him in prayer and in His love letter to us.

* We need to make Him known in all I do, living in a way that reflects Him.

3. Living life apart from God is arrogant and sinful. (16-17)

a. Jeremiah 18:6 – What example did God use to remind Israel who was in control?

b. Job 42:1-3 – Job realized that he had no business questioning God's plan. Instead, Job trusted God.



Thoughts to Ponder:

1. Do you acknowledge God in your plans? "If the Lord wills" is not a magic phrase, it's a mindset!

2. Are you willing to trust that God will work His perfect plan in your life, even if it isn't your plans?