

James

Chapter 4:13-17

Chapter 1: Spiritual maturity is born in suffering

Chapter 2: Spiritual maturity is evidenced in action

Chapter 3: Spiritual maturity is heard and spoken in word

Chapter 4: Spiritual maturity resist the devil and draws near to God

Chapter 5: Spiritual maturity prays and gathers others

What is your life?

- These verses have some connection back to ch 1 (will, boasting, fading)
- “Come now” is like us saying “see here” indicating a choice made in planning
- The problem arises when I map out my life, not considering God’s wishes
- Presumptuous confidence of our lives and providence is neglected
- Leaving God out of my schemes and plans is really me being Lord of my life
- It also seeks worldly success and fulfillment for future selfish reasons
- But life is a vapor - small, little, snatch out of sight, steam from hot liquid
- We do not know what tomorrow will bring Matt 6:34
- Underneath all this is the fact my life is in Christ (walk in me, work in me)
- All my heart, mind and soul are His ownership, not much time to live for Him
- This is the opposite of seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness

Boasting & Knowing

- The Lord’s will - means to have the mind, resolved or determined
- Boasting means impious & empty presumption, empty assurance
- It also means bragging, claims no one can fulfill
- Control is really in heaven and not in your hands
- Our lives are not in our own hands; we really are at God’s call and disposal
- So the question becomes does Christ have all my mind, heart and plans?
- Verse 17 - ‘know’ means to see, perceive with eyes
- Good - better, honest, excellent thing, genuine, approved
- Far east understanding of ‘know’ was tied to actions that agree with ‘know’
- For them to say ‘I know’ means a commitment to act in order of that understanding
- This is moving beyond a list of do and don’ts for sin
- It is moving contrary to conviction; it is sin with a witness and that witness is me
- This is toward conscience and acting in accordance of a clear conscience
- Another way of saying this is, “I did what God wanted me to do today”.
- Maintain a constant sense of God and the dependance on Him and His will