

James 4:13-17 – Responding to God's Will

- Remember that James is a very practical book. It helps us to examine our _____.
 - Why do we need to examine our faith?
 - _____
 -
- How does our response to God's will indicate true or false faith?
 - True faith: _____
 - False faith: _____

DEFINING OUR TERMS - Resource: *Everyone's a Theologian* by R.C. Sproul

- Two aspects of God's will:
 - _____ (AKA sovereign, decretive, efficacious)
 - _____ (AKA preceptive)
- Decretive will – refers to the fact that God sovereignly brings to pass whatsoever He wills.
 - Deuteronomy 29:29 tells us that _____.
 - “Where God closes His holy mouth, I will desist from inquiry.” -John Calvin
- Preceptive will – refers to God's law, to His commandments.
 - God's sovereign will cannot be _____ but we _____ His preceptive will all the time.
 - How do we resist? _____
- We must focus on God's _____ will in His Word.
 - 1 Thess. 4:3a – “For this is the will of God, your sanctification”
 - How are we sanctified?
 - First _____ and then _____
 - powered by _____.
- You can never be outside the _____ will of God.

There are four groups represented in this set of verses. Three who respond negatively to God's will and one who responds in a godly way.

THE GROUP WHO RESPONDS BY FOOLISHLY IGNORING GOD'S WILL (vv. 13-14)

- Like the businessmen in these verses, we tend to think we can _____ our lives.

- “Come now” (v. 13)
 - This phrase is equivalent to _____.
- “You who say”
 - This indicates _____ living in disregard to God’s will.
- What is wrong: they made their plans totally _____ God.
 - Luke 12:16-21
- Practically, make your plans understanding that God is in ultimate _____.
 - What happens when plans fall apart and you haven’t considered God at all?
- “You do not know...” (v. 14)
 - Life is _____ and people are _____.
 - Remember Romans 8:28! This is hopeful for the believer who knows that God is _____ and _____.
- “You are just a vapor” (v. 14)
 - Life is brief and frail.
 - What happens when we recognize this truth?
 - _____
 -
 - When we follow God’s will, we are _____.

THE GROUP WHO RESPONDS BY ARROGANTLY DENYING GOD’S WILL (v. 16)

- The first group lives as _____.
 - We do this, too. We allow our souls to remain in _____, ignoring how our sin is tearing us apart.
 - If we follow God’s _____ will in His Word and trust the sufficiency of Scripture, we would be cured.
- This group of people _____ God’s will and then _____ it.
 - They elevate themselves to a godlike status.
 - How? _____
- “Boast”
 - Greek = kauchaomai

- Literally means _____.
- It can also refer to speaking loudly.
 - Either in _____ as seen in Rom. 5:2-3)
 - Or in _____ about oneself (1 Cor. 1:29)
- “Arrogance”
 - This word was used to describe charlatans who travelled around selling phony goods.
- “Boast” and “arrogance” together create a picture of someone bragging about something he:
 - _____
 - _____
- “Evil”
 - Greek = ponēros
 - This word is also used as a title for _____.

THE GROUP WHO SINS BY DISOBEYING GOD’S WILL (v. 17)

- This group of people:
 - _____ God’s existence
 - _____ the supremacy of His will
 - and then _____ it.
- “Right”
 - Greek = kalos
 - Describes what is qualitatively good, morally excellent, worthy of honor, etc.
 - Imagine finding God’s will to be _____ and then outright _____ it without remorse.
- We are _____ to obey God’s Word
- How is this group’s sin more serious than the others’ sins?
 - _____
 -
- _____ is a good biblical example of this.

THE GROUP WHO ACKNOWLEDGES AND OBEYS GOD’S WILL IS BLESSED (v. 15)

- “To say”

- This verb is in present infinitive form which indicates _____ submission to God's will.
- This group _____ their lives on the will of God.
- Do they mess up? YES!
 - But what matters is _____ NOT _____.
- Doing God's will is an act of _____.
 - It must be done from a pure heart as a way of life recognizing that He empowers us to submit and obey.
 - How do we rely on the power of God?

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