

A Man and His Goals- part 3

April 13, 2005

“And now I have a word for you who brashly announce, ‘Today—at the latest, tomorrow—we’re off to such and such a city for the year. We’re going to start a business and make a lot of money.’ You don’t know the first thing about tomorrow. You’re nothing but a wisp of fog, catching a brief bit of sun before disappearing. Instead, make it a habit to say, ‘If the Master wills it and we’re still alive, we’ll do this or that.’ As it is, you are full of your grandiose selves. All such vaunting self-importance is evil. In fact, if you know the right thing to do and don’t do it, that for you, is evil.” James 4:13-17 The Message

SUMMARY:

The greatest goal of life is realizing that God alone wants for all men to seek and know Him in this life and for eternity. The greatest challenge is to practically live out this truth “in the trenches” of our lives that are filled with the challenges of relationships, time, business, money, health, etc. The word of God continues to teach us to live more effectively by simplifying our focus.

NOTES:

Live _____

Live _____

Live _____

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Question: What should we keep in mind as we plan for the future?

Discussion:

- How is life like a “fog” or “mist”?
- Does James discourage planning or goals like this?
- What kind of attitude is he warning against?
- What kind of attitude is he suggesting we have?
- How are we guarded against boasting if we keep remembering the Lord’s role in our lives?

APPLICATION:

- Begin every day for one week by thoughtfully praying the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), thinking about God’s goals for your day.
- Are you Ready? Willing? Humble?
- Set a time to meet with a friend to talk about your goals.
- Mentally review a situation in the past week where your pride flared up and caused you a problem. Write down our hindsight insights.
- Every time you find yourself tensing up when your goal is not working out—open your hand as a reminder to yourself and to God that your life and goals are not your own.

ON YOUR OWN...

Philippians 3:1-21
Proverbs 3:21-22
Proverbs 17:24
2 Corinthians 10:13
I Corinthians 9:24-27

