



Week Eight: James 4:13-17

"Boasting About Tomorrow"

Reading and Study Guide for the
week of Oct. 22-29, 2023

Memory Verse for the Book of James: *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."* (James 1:22)

This week, read James 4:13-17. Some questions to answer and think about this week with your family or Community Group:

1. If you knew you had just three months to live, what are some things you would want to do?
2. What warning did James give to those who make plans for the future? ([4:13-14](#))
3. What could happen to destroy even the best laid plans? ([4:14](#))
4. What is the best way to plan ahead? ([4:15](#))
5. What should we say when we are making plans? ([4:15](#))
6. What outlook toward the future does God want us to change? What sinful attitudes often accompany the act of making plans? ([4:16](#))
7. How did James define sin? ([4:17](#))
8. What responsibility does God want us to take in planning our lives?
9. How can we make plans for business or living which are pleasing to God?
10. What can you do this week to place your plans for the future in God's hands?

Life Application Bible Notes

[4:13-16](#) It is good to have goals, but goals can disappoint us if we leave God out of them. There is no point in making plans as though God does not exist because the future is in his hands. The beginning of good planning is to ask: "What would I like to be doing ten years from now? One year from now? Tomorrow? How will I react if God steps in and rearranges my plans?" We can plan ahead, but we must hold on to our plans loosely. If we put God's desires at the center of our planning, he will never disappoint us.

[4:14](#) Life is short no matter how many years we live. Don't be deceived into thinking that you have lots of remaining time to live for Christ, to enjoy your loved ones, or to do what you know you should. Live for God today! Then, no matter when your life ends, you will have fulfilled God's plan for you.

[4:17](#) We tend to think that *doing* wrong is sin. But James tells us that sin is also *not* doing right. (These two kinds of sin are sometimes called sins of commission and sins of omission.) It is a sin to lie; it can also be a sin to know the truth and not tell it. It is a sin to speak evil of someone; it is also a sin to avoid that person when you know he or she needs your friendship. You should be willing to help as the Holy Spirit guides you. If God has directed you to do a kind act, to render a service, or to restore a relationship, do it. You will experience a renewed and refreshed vitality to your Christian faith.

James Study Guide questions and notes are from

