

## **Week 9: Planning for the Future**

**Text: James 4:13-17**

**Main Idea:** In this week's study James gives us some guidelines for planning our near future as well as our distant future. Being in tune with God and His Word is vital to knowing how to daily plan and navigate everything that happens in life. Planning should be carried out with asking God for wisdom and being careful to guard our hearts.

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"—**14** yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. **15** Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." **16** As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. **17** So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. -James 4:13-17

### **Key Points:**

\*We make mistakes in our planning (Verses 13-14)

- Our lives are filled with uncertainty
- Our lives are a vapor

\*We need to recognize God's place in planning (Verse 15)

- God should be the most important part in our planning
- Knowing what God wants for us in His Word makes planning much easier!

\*Guard your heart in planning (Verse 16)

- Look at Proverbs 27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

\*Don't put off planning! (Verse 17)

- Procrastination can cripple our spiritual lives
- James challenges us to always put God's Word into practice on a daily basis, and not to wait.

### **Discussion and Application Questions:**

- 1) What are some issues that people will commonly ask God for His direction on?
- 2) How do you figure out what God wants for you?

- 3) Do you think people don't plan for eternity? Why or why not?
- 4) How could people plan for their future and not guard their heart?
- 5) What does Proverbs 27:1 say about question 4?
- 6) Read Proverbs 3:28, what does it say about putting things off?
- 7) What are negative outcomes of procrastination?