

Pure Religion
A Temporary Life – James 4:13-17
April 29, 2018

What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. - **James 4:14**

I. THE SIN OF PRESUMPTION

- Once again, James is concerned with the speech that betrays our heart's motives. We are presumptuous when we:
 1. Assume we will live as long as we please.
 2. See it as a right to travel anywhere we please.
 3. Assume to make any plans we please. Maybe today, maybe tomorrow; the choice is ours.
 4. Assume we have within ourselves the capacity to execute whatever plans we conceive. We will make a profit.

II. WHAT IS YOUR LIFE?

- God's word is clear—our lives are temporary. We are not built for eternity in our present state (Ps. 39:4; 78:39; 90:12; 144:4; Prov. 27:1; Isa. 40:6-8; 1 Cor. 15:50; 1 Pet. 1:24).
- We have no idea what tomorrow will be like, or if it will even come. Let tomorrow worry about tomorrow (Luke 12:13-21; Matt. 6:25-34).
- Humility is a key to life, and the enjoyment of it (James 4:6-10).

III. A DEFINITION OF SIN

- Sin does not go by one definition, but James does clue us in on the concept of sins of omission. To know what we are supposed to do and refuse to do it is sin (Matt. 21:28-32; Luke 10:25-37).

KNOW: Life is short and entirely in the hands of God. He numbers our days, and we are wise to consider that and think accordingly. Boasting about what we will do is a waste of time and energy. Refusing to live in such a manner is simply sinful.

DO: Number your days and trust God for the future.

Recommended Reading:

Humility: True Greatness by C.J. Mahaney (LifePoint Library #241.4 MAH)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read James 4:13-17

1. What seems to be James's overarching concern in this section of his letter?
2. James seems to be indicating that it is wrong to be overconfident about the future. What would our world's system of wisdom and business savvy say to that?
3. Does the Scripture's emphasis upon the transitory nature of life demean the value of our lives?
4. Is it wrong to make future plans? What does it mean to "boast in arrogance"?
5. How much knowledge do you think is necessary to make a sin of omission a sin? (This is an intentionally vague question.)
6. How might you apply what you've learned from this passage?