

My Life As A Vanishing Vapour

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James 4:13-17

Introduction-

1. Read James 4:13-17
2. Here today, gone tomorrow
-Examples of Death
3. No Idea what tomorrow may bring - Eccl. 9:11-12
4. Knowing this ought to change our lives today!

Discussion-

I. Today, Remember Who Is Really In Control

A. Not Me! These men forgot that (James 4:13)

1. They planned for the future and boasted of tomorrow
2. Don't boast, for we are not in control
3. Prov. 16:9 "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps"
4. Jeremiah 10:23 "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."
5. Luke 12:16-21 - Rich man had plans, he knew how it would work out --- but had no idea that night his soul would be required.

B. God is in control!

1. God who is good, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent
2. Luke 12:22-34 – fear not, God will take care of you
3. // sermon on the mount – Matt. 6:25-34 – Do not worry about tomorrow...God is in control!
4. Death is a reminder that God is in control.

II. Today, Acknowledge the Lord

A. James 4:13-17 – all these men acknowledged was what they were going to do

B. James 4:15 –They ought to have said "If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that"

C. Proverbs 3:6 "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths"

1. We may make plans, have goals and ambitions
2. But we need to acknowledge the Lord, place our trust in him – Proverbs 3:5
3. Give thanks to God
4. Give glory to God
5. For he is in control!

III. Today, Live In the Present

A. For we do not know what tomorrow may bring – Prov. 27:1

- B. Matthew 6:34 – Stop worrying about tomorrow
- C. Phil. 3:1-21 – This one thing I do
 - 1. What – press toward the mark for the prize (:14)
 - 2. How – Forgetting those things behind (:13)
 - a. Past accomplishments
 - b. Past failures
 - 3. How – Reaching forth unto the things before (:13)
- D. Phil. 1:19-26 – to live is Christ, to die is gain (result of living life in the present)
- E. Ephesians 5:15-17 – Redeeming the time

IV. Today, Do What the Lord Wills

- A. If the Lord wills..... more than something we say
 - 1. It means that I want what the Lord wants!
 - 2. Christ example (39,42,44) – Matthew 26:36-46
- B. Luke 6:46-49 – Do what the Lord commands, and you will stand firm!
- C. Matthew 6:33 – Rather than worry, focus on seeking first the Kingdom of God,
 - 1. Then these things will be added unto you!
 - 2. And your will will grow closer to the Lord's will.

V. Today, Do What Is Right Without Procrastinating

- A. James 4:17 – it is a sin not to do good when you know to
- B. James 2:15-16 – no profit if you don't DO
- C. Proverbs 3:27-28 – don't wait until tomorrow!
- D. We don't know if we will have another opportunity...
 - 1. To teach others (Mark 16:15-16)
 - 2. To study God's word (2 Tim. 2:15)
 - 3. To be an example (light - world/salt - earth Mt. 5:13-16)
 - 4. To say an encouraging word (1 Thess. 5:11)
 - 5. To obey the gospel (Acts 22:16)

Conclusion-

- 1. Psalm 144:4 – “Man is like to vanity (a breath): his days are as a shadow that passeth away”
- 2. We are all living on “borrowed time” – a vanishing vapour
- 3. This ought to change how we live today! (repeat points)
- 4. How are you living your life as a vanishing vapour?