

James

Lesson 7

"Instead, *you ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

James 4:13-17

Introduction

- Almost all people including Christians are involved in making plans
- We plan for education, work, vacations and even retirement
- For Christians, we should also above all be concerned with planning for our continued obedience to the gospel that will influence all our plans including marriage, family and working with a local church

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Introduction

- It is not wrong for Christians to make plans
- But, unless we humbly plan in harmony with God's will, we will be guilty of arrogant presumptuous planning, common in the world
- What does it mean for us to plan according to God's will?
- Why is it foolish to plan ignoring God's will?

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"Instead, *you ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

1. It is not wrong for Christians to make plans
2. Sinful presumptuous planning against God's will 4:13-16
3. Christians must plan in harmony with God's will 4:15-17

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It Is Not Wrong For Christians To Make Plans

Pro 6:6 Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise,

Pro 6:7 Which, having no chief, Officer or ruler,

Pro 6:8 Prepares her food in the summer
And gathers her provision in the harvest.

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It Is Not Wrong For Christians To Make Plans

Pro 6:9 How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep?

Pro 6:10 "A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest"--

Pro 6:11 Your poverty will come in like a vagabond
And your need like an armed man.

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It Is Not Wrong For Christians To Make Plans

Pro 14:23 In all labor there is profit, But mere talk *leads* only to poverty.

Pro 21:5 The plans of the diligent *lead* surely to advantage, But everyone who is hasty *comes* surely to poverty.

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It Is Not Wrong For Christians To Make Plans

1Ti 4:7 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;

1Ti 4:8 for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and *also* for the *life* to come.

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Sinful Presumptuous Planning Against God's Will

- If we make our plans and assume we will be alive at such a time and be able to do what we plan, then we sin
- We assume we have control of time and our lives
- But, we forget God is the Giver of life and is in control of all things

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Sinful Presumptuous Planning Against God's Will

Jas 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."

Jas 4:14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

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Sinful Presumptuous Planning Against God's Will

Jas 4:15 Instead, *you ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

Jas 4:16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

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The Rich Fool An Example of Boastful Planning

Luk 12:15 Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not *even* when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

Luk 12:16 And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive.

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The Rich Fool An Example of Boastful Planning

Luk 12:17 "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?'

Luk 12:18 "Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

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The Rich Fool An Example of Boastful Planning

Luk 12:19 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years *to come*; take your ease, eat, drink *and* be merry."

Luk 12:20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This *very* night your soul is required of you; and *now* who will own what you have prepared?'

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The Rich Fool An Example of Boastful Planning

Luk 12:21 "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

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Boasting About Tomorrow Is Sinful

Pro 27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

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Our Earthly Lives Are Uncertain And Fleeting

Job 9:25 "Now my days are swifter than a runner; They flee away, they see no good.

Job 9:26 "They slip by like reed boats, Like an eagle that swoops on its prey.

Job 14:1 "Man, who is born of woman, Is short-lived and full of turmoil.

Job 14:2 "Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain.

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Christians Must Plan In Harmony With God's Will

- James instructs Christians we should say if the Lord wills, we will be able to live and do certain things in the future
- We must not plan things that are in conflict with God's written will

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Christians Must Plan In Harmony With God's Will

- Also, we must recognize our total dependence on God for life and all blessings both spiritual and physical
- By His power, mercy and providence, we are allowed to live and to fulfill our plans

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Christians Must Plan In Harmony With God's Will

Jas 4:15 Instead, *you ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

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Christians Must Plan In Harmony With God's Will

Col 1:9 For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

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Christians Must Plan In Harmony With God's Will

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Col 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

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Christians Must Plan In Harmony With God's Will

Act 18:19 They came to Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

Act 18:20 When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent,

Act 18:21 but taking leave of them and saying, "I will return to you again if God wills," he set sail from Ephesus.

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Christians Must Plan In Harmony With God's Will

1Co 16:5 But I will come to you after I go through Macedonia, for I am going through Macedonia;

1Co 16:6 and perhaps I will stay with you, or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my way wherever I may go.

1Co 16:7 For I do not wish to see you now *just* in passing; for I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits.

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Christians Must Plan In Harmony With God's Will

1Co 16:8 But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost;

1Co 16:9 for a wide door for effective *service* has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

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Failing To Plan In Harmony With God's Will Is Sin

- Boastfully planning against God's will is sinful
- Since we know it is right to plan in harmony with God's will and if we fail to do that or anything else that is right according to God's will, it is sin
- It is not enough to refrain from evil but we must do what we know to be right in God's sight, according to His Word

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Failing To Plan In Harmony With God's Will Is Sin

Jas 4:16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

Jas 4:17 Therefore, to one who knows *the* right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

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Failing To Do The Right Thing According To God's Word Is Sin

Mat 25:26 "But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no *seed*.'

Mat 25:27 'Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my *money* back with interest.'

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