

## ***Studies in the Letter from James 4:13-17***

Sunday, June 23, 2019

**The Letter From James:** We said in the first study that James, rather than being a logically developed theme from start to finish, was a series of practical admonitions in living the Christian life. As we move into chapter 2 James raises the issue of partiality among believers and faith that has no works to reflect it.



***Show me your faith without the works,  
And I will show you my faith by my works.***

- I. The Problem With Our Plans (v.13)
  - A. Note the sequence: (1) we will go to a certain place (2) we will spend a certain amount of time there (3) we will engage in business (4) we will make a profit
  - B. The entire plan is self-determined (WE will) and therefore presumptive
- II. The Uncertainty And Relative Brevity Of Life (v.14)
  - A. The variables of a 24 hour period are too innumerable to count
    1. We do not know what a day may bring forth
    2. Jesus taught, "Take no thought for tomorrow, for sufficient unto this day is enough trouble to keep us busy." (Paraphrase of Matthew 6:34)
  - B. Our life is like a vapor that is here a little while and then vanishes away
    1. Many people just live for pleasure and have no purpose
    2. Most thoughtful people want their life to make a difference, to leave a legacy
    3. Followers of Jesus want their life to matter for eternity
- III. We Ought To Say, If The Lord Wills, We Will Live And Also Do This Or That (v.15)
  - A. The wrong use of "If the Lord wills"
  - B. Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 6:33 (vv 24-34)
- IV. Living By Our Own Plans Is Arrogant Boasting And Evil (Worldly) (vv.16-17)

Believers ought to know better and be proactive; it is sin to be passive when we know the right thing to do—Live each day by God's direction and not by your own arrogant plans.