

FACING YOUR FUTURE – PART 12
BUILDING A FAITH THAT WORKS - JAMES 4:13-17

Jeanette Horne, Covenant Community Church, Bham, AL, Wed., August 23,2017, 7 PM

PRAYER REQUESTS & OPENING PRAYER
OPENING REMARKS - Read James 4:13-17

3 COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

I. MISTAKE #1: Planning W G.

"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business, and make money.'" (vs. 13)

THE SOLUTION: I GOD IN YOUR GOAL SETTING

"Instead, you ought to say, 'IF it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'" (vs. 15)

"Deo Valente" -- "Lord willing"

THERE ARE THREE POSSIBLE RESPONSES TO GOD'S WILL:

1. I CAN MAKE REFERENCE TO IT.
2. I CAN SHOW DEFERENCE TO IT.
3. I CAN SHOW PREFERENCE FOR IT.

"We may make our plans, but God has the last word." Prov. 16:1 (GN)

"We should make plans -- counting on God to direct us." Prov. 16:9 (LB)

II. MISTAKE #2: P ABOUT TOMORROW.

"Why, you don't even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil." (vs. 14 & 16)

REASONS WE SHOULDN'T PRESUME ABOUT THE FUTURE

- 1) LIFE IS UN.
- 2) LIFE IS B.

"Come," each one cries, "... Let us drink our fill of beer! And tomorrow will be like today, or even better!" Isaiah 56:12

"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth." Prov. 27:1

THE SOLUTION: LIVE ONE DAY AT A TIME

"So don't be anxious about tomorrow -- God will take care of your tomorrow, too. Live one day at a time." Matt. 6:34 (LB)

III. MISTAKE #3: _____

"Anyone then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it sins." (vs. 17)

THE SOLUTION: _____

"Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, 'Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow' -- when you now have it with you." Prov. 3:27-28

THERE ARE 3 THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR LIFE:

1. S IT-
2. W IT
3. I IT

**"He is no fool who gives up that which he cannot keep
for that which he cannot lose." Jim Elliot**

**"It doesn't matter how long you live
if you're not doing anything with your life."**

Line from old Peace Corps Commercial

"Jesus told them a parable, `The ground of a certain rich man produced good crops and he thought to himself "What shall I do. I have no place to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I'll do. I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. And there I will store all my grain and my goods and I will say to myself, `You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy. Eat, drink, be merry," but God said to him `You fool. This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get all that you have prepared for yourself.'" Luke 12:16-20

"RIGHT NOW God is ready to welcome you. TODAY He is ready to save you!" 2 Cor. 6:2 (LB)

***What are your plans for the future?
Does God have a say in it?
Does God have a priority in your planning?***