

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

JAMES

These questions are for the **August 23, 2015 Sermon**, "Today or Tomorrow" Please read the sermon passage (James 4:13-17) together out loud.

Sermon Outline:

WHEN PLANNING AHEAD, TAKE INTO ACCOUNT . . .

1. **The brevity of life** (13, 14)
 - A. It is not yours to determine the
 - i. the timing of your plans (today or tomorrow)
 - ii. the location of your plans (into town)
 - iii. the duration of your plans (spend a year)
 - iv. the involvements/specifics of your plans (trade)
 - v. the outcome of your plans (make a profit)
 - B. Do not make yourself sovereign over your future. Make yourself submissive to the Lord.
2. **The sovereignty of God** (15, 16)
 - A. It is boastful and arrogant to make your plans and announce them . . .
 - B. Without verbally recognizing that God is in supreme control ("If the Lord wills.")
3. **The responsibility of believers** (17)
 - A. To know the right thing to do and not do it is sin.
 - B. We must never seek to know God's will only to consider it as an option.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: How can you grow in the area of SUBMITTING to God's will today, rather than trying to be SOVEREIGN over your future? What plans have you made in your life that you knew did not line up with God's revealed Word (the Bible)? What area of your life needs to be brought into submission with the will of God today?
2. Based on #1, above: Which of the 5 areas (timing, location, duration, purpose and results) do you most try to control?
3. Based on #2, above: What are the practical implications of living the "Deo Volente" ('if the Lord wills') life?
4. Based on #3, above: Have you ever sought God's will, came to a sense of what he was asking, and then rejected it? Tell us what you learned through that process.
5. Quotes from the message to fuel conversation:
 - "Never attempt to make permanent what God intends to be temporary."
 - "Never attempt to make yourself sovereign, but submissive."
 - When we run ahead of God's timing, we do not gain time, but we lose time."
 - What is your life? A vanishing mist. Learn to number your days (Psalm 90).