

## Who's in Charge? - James 4

October 26, 2017

James 4:13-17 ESV

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"--

14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

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

16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Two components to the pride James addresses:

1. Presuming we possess and control our lives - "...you do not know what tomorrow will bring..."
2. Presuming we can direct our lives and decisions - "...today or tomorrow we will go..."

### THE ARROGANCE OF PRESUMING WE POSSESS AND CONTROL OUR LIVES

*Our life, our days, our next breath and next heartbeat are in the sovereign hands of God! We, the created, answer to our Creator.*

Proverbs 27:1 ESV

1 Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

Psalms 90:12 KJV

12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Psalms 90:12 NLT

12 Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.

Isaiah 56:12 ESV

12 "Come," they [evil shepherds] say, "let me get wine; let us fill ourselves with strong drink; and tomorrow will be like this day, great beyond measure."

Luke 12:15-21 ESV

15 And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

16 And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully,

17 and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?'

18 And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.'

19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."

20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'

21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

## **THE ARROGANCE OF PRESUMING WE CAN DIRECT OUR LIVES**

*With the foolish presumption that we possess and control our own lives, comes the arrogance that we can also direct our lives and decisions according to our own will and pleasure.*

**Daniel 5:20-23** ESV

20 But when his [Nebuchadnezzar] heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was brought down from his kingly throne, and his glory was taken from him.

21 He was driven from among the children of mankind, and his mind was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. He was fed grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, until he knew that the Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom he will.

22 And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this,

23 but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven...the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.

**Isaiah 30:1-3** ESV

1 "Ah, stubborn children," declares the LORD, "who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin;

2 who set out to go down to Egypt, without asking for my direction, to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!

3 Therefore shall the protection of Pharaoh turn to your shame, and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt to your humiliation.

**Isaiah 31:1** ESV

1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the LORD!

**Isaiah 47:5-11** ESV

5 Sit in silence, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; for you shall no more be called the mistress of kingdoms.

6 I was angry with my people; I profaned my heritage; I gave them into your hand; you showed them no mercy; on the aged you made your yoke exceedingly heavy.

7 You said, "I shall be mistress forever," so that you did not lay these things to heart or remember their end.

8 Now therefore hear this, you lover of pleasures, who sit securely, who say in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me"; I shall not sit as a widow or know the loss of children":

9 These two things shall come to you in a moment, in one day; the loss of children and widowhood shall come upon you in full measure, in spite of your many sorceries and the great power of your enchantments.

10 You felt secure in your wickedness, you said, "No one sees me"; your wisdom and your knowledge led you astray, and you said in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me."

11 But evil shall come upon you, which you will not know how to charm away; disaster shall fall upon you, for which you will not be able to atone; and ruin shall come upon you suddenly, of which you know nothing.

John 5:19-20 ESV

19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

John 5:25-30 ESV

27 And he [the Father] has given him [His Son] authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice

29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

30 I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

Proverbs 3:5-8 ESV

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

*"...Another thing about the man on the cross...he has no further plans of his own...Oh, what busy-beaver Christians we are with all of our plans! It is beautiful to say, 'I am crucified with Christ,' and know that Christ is making your plans." A.W. Tozer, "The Old Cross and the New", p.44*