

3. (4:15) Instead of asserting what we will do, what should we say?

What two things does James indicate may or may not be the Lord's will?

Think about it: What is the attitudinal difference between the two ways of speaking (verses 13 and 15)?

4. (4:16) Is the "you" here a verse 13 kind of person or a verse 15 kind of person?

Think about it: What picture do the combined words of "boast and brag" paint of the speaker?

What is James' judgment on such boasting?

5. (4:17) The Westminster Shorter Catechism defines sin as "disobeying or not conforming to God's law in any way." Others speak of sins of commission and omission. Of those two ways of defining sin, how does James define it in this verse?

The word "then" connects verse 17 to what precedes it. What sin is James referring to?

What is the "good" then that we ought to do?

Personal Reflection

Whether we are wealthy or of meager means, in what ways are we tempted to plan on the future apart from God?

Why is self-sufficiency such an offense to God? What evil results from such sin?

As you think about the time and effort you put into your financial future, take time to evaluate your heart attitude. What if God's will for you did not include future financial freedom? Would you rather have a "secure" future, or live a life in deep trust and dependence on God's provision?



Memory Verse: James 4:17

Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

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