

Sunday, June 29, 2025
Title: “Planning your Future”
Text: James 4:13–17
Series: *The Book of James*

I. Only God can plan the Future

A. Do you think you can plan the future or control the outcomes of your life?

Come Now – James uses this phrase to enter into an imaginary dialogue with someone.

You who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go” – James exposes the casual certitude of someone who thinks they can plan the future or control outcomes

B. Do you know your mortality and fragility?

What is your life? For you are a mist – James strongly corrects a sense of self that attributes to one’s self qualities that belong to God alone (e.g. sovereignty, eternity, aseity)

C. Will you submit your plans to God and trust His control of your life’s outcomes?

Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord Wills” – James provides the right way to plan

As it Is... – James rebukes anyone who arrogantly lives without depending on God

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.