

James 4:13-17

1. Previous verses “Do not speak evil or judge”, but we do have to discern and evaluate what is truth and what is good.
 - a. Here, in this verse “Do not say, “Tomorrow we are going here”, but wisdom says plan and prepare for tomorrow.
 - b. The difference is NOT the words, but the attitude or worldview the words reflect.
 - c. Words are the topic, but the heart is what the words reveal.
2. 4:13-5:11 are a unit with three divisions
 - a. Two divisions of rebuke
 - i. 4:13 – “Now listen, you who say...”
 - ii. 5:1 – “Now listen, you rich people...”
 - iii. Both rebuke the attitude of the rich, arrogant
 - b. One division of correct advice for the believer
 - i. 5:7 – “Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord.”
 - c. The divisions show a class of worldviews held in the heart of the believer which is revealed by their words and attitudes:
 - i. Pagan worldview:
 1. Leaves God out of the calculations
 2. Includes boastful self-reliance
 3. Involves selfish indulgence
 4. Ignores God’s ultimate sovereignty and judgment
 - ii. Christian worldview:
 1. Consistently thinks, lives and speaks with a Biblical worldview
 2. Understands God is ordering your life, the world and history for his purpose
 3. Lives with the understanding God is the ultimate judge.

James 4:13 – **“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”—**

71 [e]	3568 [e]	3588 [e]	3004 [e]	4594 [e]	2228 [e]	839 [e]	4198 [e]	1519 [e]	3592 [e]	3588 [e]	4172 [e]	2532 [e]	4160 [e]	1563 [e]
Age	nyn	hoi	legontes	Semeron	e	aurion	poreusometha	eis	tēnde	tēn	polin	kai	poiēsomen	ekei
13 ἄγε	νῦν	, οἱ	λέγοντες	, Σήμερον	ἢ	αὔριον	πορευσόμεθα	εἰς	τήνδε	τήν	πόλιν	, καὶ	ποιήσομεν	ἐκεῖ
Come	now	those	saying	Today	or	tomorrow	we will go	into	such	-	city	and	will spend	there
V-PMA-2S	Adv	Art-VMP	V-PPA-VMP	Adv	Conj	Adv	V-FIM-1P	Prep	DPro-AFS	Art-AFS	N-AFS	Conj	V-FIA-1P	Adv

1763 [e]	2532 [e]	1710 [e]	2532 [e]	2770 [e]
eniauton	kai	emporeusometha	kai	kerdēsomen
ἐνιαυτὸν	, καὶ	ἐμπορευσόμεθα	, καὶ	κερδήσομεν
a year	and	will trade	and	will make a profit
N-AMS	Conj	V-FIM-1P	Conj	V-FIA-1P

1. Are these people (“you who say”) believers or unbelievers?
 - a. Unbelievers:
 - i. 5:1-6 are not believers
 - ii. They are addressed as examples not to follow
 - b. Believers:
 - i. They are to have a Christian worldview
 - ii. They are to acknowledge God
 - iii. They are to know what is right

- iv. James would not be addressing non-believers
 - v. Non-believers would not be reading James' letter
 - vi. These are rich believers, or the destitute believers making plans to become rich through trade. Once they have wealth they can buy land and become landowners.
2. "Now listen" – *age nyn* – means "come now" and is typical of an address in a debate like this.
 - a. Commonly used to introduce arguments addressing"
 - i. An imaginary opponent (such as here)
 - ii. Prefacing harsh words in satire.
 3. "who say"
 - a. Here again the issue is speech
 - b. Speech is the topic because it reveals the inner attitude
 4. This worldly attitude is not worthy of the Christian who has trusted Christ. These people have planned their lives and future without considering God and his plans.
 5. The Jewish merchant at this time was common. They would often travel from outside Israel and return with merchandise. Areas included Syria and Decapolis
 6. The merchants that James puts words into the mouths of speak to four areas of life:
 - a. TIME - "Today or tomorrow" –
 - b. LOCATION - "We will go into such and such a town" –
 - c. LENGTH of ACTIVITY - "spend a year there" –
 - d. ACTIVITY - "trade" -
 - e. RESULTS - "Make a profit" – They are confident their plans will work
 7. The rebuke is NOT making a profit, occupation or planning.
 8. The rebuke IS the attitude that has become secular:
 - a. Worldly
 - b. Self-confident
 - c. Godless
 - d. Boasting (of results or of having this godless attitude)
 9. Planning is not wrong, but ignoring that God already has a plan before you were born and before you made your plans is pagan.
 10. Wisdom in planning using the biblical worldview:
 - a. Proverbs 16:3 – "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.
 - b. Proverbs 16:9 – "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.
 - c. Proverbs 15:22 – "Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers, they succeed.
 - d. Luke 14:28 – "For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?"
 - e. Psalm 20:4 – "May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans!"
 - f. Proverbs 15:22 – "Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed."
 - g. Proverbs 19:21 – "Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand."
 - h. 1 Corinthians 14:40 – "But all things should be done decently and in order.

- i. Proverbs 27:23 – “Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds.”
- j. Proverbs 27:12 – “The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.
- k. Proverbs 24:27 – “Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house.”

4:14 – “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.

3748 [e]	3756 [e]	1987 [e]	3588 [e]	3588 [e]	839 [e]	4169 [e]	3588 [e]	2222 [e]	4771 [e]	822 [e]	1063 [e]	1510 [e]	3588 [e]	4314 [e]	3641 [e]
hoitines	ouk	epistasthe	to	tēs	aurion	poia	hē	zōē	hymōn	atmis	gar	este	hē	pros	oligon
14 οἵτινες	οὐκ	ἐπίστασθε	τὸ	τῆς	αὔριον	· ποία	ἡ	ζωὴ	ὑμῶν	? ἀτμὶς	γάρ	ἐστε	, ἡ	πρὸς	ὀλίγον
who	not	know	what [is]	on the	next day [is]	What [is]	the	life	of you	A vapor	just	it is	-	for	a little [while]
RelPro-NMP	Adv	V-PIMP-2P	Art-ANS	Art-GFS	Adv	IPro-NFS	Art-NFS	N-NFS	PPro-G2P	N-NFS	Conj	V-PIA-2P	Art-NFS	Prep	Adj-ANS

5316 [e]	1899 [e]	2532 [e]	853 [e]
phainomenē	epeita	kai	aphanizomenē
φαινομένη	, ἔπειτα	καὶ	ἀφανιζομένη
appearing	then	also	vanishing
V-PPM/P-NFS	Adv	Conj	V-PPM/P-NFS

1. James puts these people back in their place and under God’s plan.
2. “Who” – *hoitines* – has the qualitative sense such as “people such as you”
 - a. They have such detailed plans, yet “you” who do not even know:
 - i. The future
 - ii. How long your life is
3. Interpretation of this could be:
 - a. “You do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life?”
 - b. You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow.”
4. “Mist” or “Vapor” – *atmis* – is typical biblical image of man’s temporal life: grass, shadow, cloud, smoke

4:15 – “Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”

473 [e]	3588 [e]	3004 [e]	4771 [e]	1437 [e]	3588 [e]	2962 [e]	2309 [e]	2532 [e]	2198 [e]	2532 [e]	4160 [e]	3778 [e]	2228 [e]	1565 [e]
Anti	tou	legein	hymas	Ean	ho	Kyrios	thelēsē	kai	zēsomen	kai	poiēsomen	touto	ē	ekeino
15 Ἄντι	τοῦ	λέγειν	ὑμᾶς	, Ἐὰν	ὁ	Κύριος	θελήσῃ	, καὶ	ζήσομεν	καὶ	ποιήσομεν	τοῦτο	ἢ	ἐκεῖνο
Instead [ought]	-	to say	you	If	the	Lord	should will	both	we will live	and	we will do	this	or	that
Prep	Art-GNS	V-PNA	PPro-A2P	Conj	Art-NMS	N-NMS	V-ASA-3S	Conj	V-FIA-1P	Conj	V-FIA-1P	DPro-ANS	Conj	DPro-ANS

1. “If” – third class condition meaning they do not know what the Lord’s will is.
2. Again, the idea is not that planning on doing “this or that” is wrong, but planning/anticipating anything without being under the authority of the plan and will of God is wrong.
 - a. Just like judging without being under God’s Law yourself is wrong.
 - b. Stay under God’s Law; Stay under God’s ☐overignty

4:16 – “As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

3568 [e]	1161 [e]	2744 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	212 [e]	4771 [e]	3956 [e]	2746 [e]	5108 [e]	4190 [e]	1510 [e]			
nyn	de	kauchasthe	en	tais	alazoneiais	hymōn	pasa	kauchēsis	toiautē	ponēra	estin			
16	νῦν	δὲ	καυχᾶσθε	ἐν	ταῖς	ἀλαζονείαις*	ὑμῶν	·	πᾶσα	καύχησις	τοιαύτη	πονηρὰ	ἐστίν	·
Now	however	you boast	in	the	arrogance	of you	All	boasting	such	evil	is			
Adv	Conj	V-PIMP/2P	Prep	Art-DFP	N-DFP	PPro-G2P	Adj-NFS	N-NFS	DPro-NFS	Adj-NFS	V-PIA-3S			

1. “Boasting” – *kauchaomai* – generally used as a negative term for presumptuous bragging.
2. What are they “boasting” about? Two options:
 - a. They boast about their arrogant, self-confident, self-reliant attitude. They are boasting about their ability to plan their own fate. They are boasting about being able to control the markets. They are in a sense their own god.
 - b. They may be in a state of boasting which means they are boasting about where they will go, how long they’ll stay, how much profit they will make. They are boasting then in their acts of arrogance.
3. All this kind of boasting is wrong. These are friends of the world
4. The Bible says we can boast about Christ’s death, our own weakness, God’s strength.

4:17 – “So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

1492 [e]	3767 [e]	2570 [e]	4160 [e]	2532 [e]	3361 [e]	4160 [e]	266 [e]	846 [e]	1510 [e]		
eidoti	oun	kalon	poiein	kai	mē	poiounti	hamartia	autō	estin		
17	εἰδότε	οὖν	καλὸν	ποιεῖν	, καὶ	μὴ	ποιοῦντι	, ἁμαρτία	αὐτῷ	ἐστίν	·
To [him] knowing	therefore	good	to do	and	not	doing	sin	to him	it is		
V-RPA-DMS	Conj	Adj-ANS	V-PNA	Conj	Adv	V-PPA-DMS	N-NFS	PPro-DM3S	V-PIA-3S		

1. Failing to take God’s will, plan, sovereignty into account while making your plans, preparing for you business, anticipating your life is sin.
2. It is not a sin to:
 - a. Plan a trip
 - b. Plan a business and project your investments
 - c. Research opportunities
 - d. Prepare for retirement
 - e. Be responsible
3. In fact, not planing and not preparing is a sin itself.
4. The sin in these verses is living your life without concern for:
 - a. God
 - b. God’s plans that exist before you and your plans
 - c. God’s control and direction of your plans to fit into his
 - d. God’s judgment and ultimate evaluation of your cooperation with his plans.