

# A Vacuous vs. A Victorious Life

*James 4:13-17 (ESV)*

## Boasting About Tomorrow

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.

# Notes & Comments

## James 4:13-17 (ESV)

### Boasting About Tomorrow:

- “Come now”, James issues a challenge and confronts human arrogance and pride.
- Boasting about tomorrow is presumptuous and prideful; it is ignorant and insidious.

#### In arrogance and in pride:

- We plan
- We pick a place
- We ply our profession / trade
- We predict prosperity
- If we plan without God and we were to pick a place, ply our trade and prosper, **to what end would it be? Without God our life is a vapour and vacuous.**
- Godless prosperity is a slippery place. (Ps 106:15). He not only **give us**; sometimes, He **“give us over”** cf. Rom: 1:24, 26, 28; 11:8
- Man’s predictions are based on pride and chance; God’s provisions are based on his Person and promises.

#### Without God . . .

- Our plans are futile.
- Our life is fleeting.
- Our destiny is failure and frustration.
- James, not only addressed ***the sins of presumption and pride***, but also the ***“sin of omission.”*** v. 17
- The ***“pagans”*** around might not include God in their lives, because ***“they do not know better”***. Do we as Christians do any better, when we claim to know Him and what He requires of us and ignore Him? ***“To whom much is given, much shall be required.”*** (Lu 12:48)

#### As Christians, we must:

- Live like **we know God**, Who knows the future – Worship Him
- Live accord to what we know He requires of us – Obey Him (His will)
- Live like He cares about our future – He does! – Trust Him

#### Conclusion:

- Without God our lives are a **vapour** and **vacuous**.
- With God, **“in Christ,”** our lives are **significant** and **substantial** – **gratifying** and **glorifying** - **vibrant, virtuous** and **victorious**.
- **What is your life?**
- **What is your destiny?**