

If the Lord Wills ...
James 4:13-17

Main Point:

While prideful planning is your natural disposition, it is both foolish and evil; therefore, submit your plans to God for the sake of your Savior.

1. We are all disposed to be prideful planners.

2. But prideful planning is both foolish and evil.

3. Instead, we should submit our plans to God's sovereignty.

4. We need to make this change in our planning now for the sake of Christ.

Proverbs 21:5 ⁵ The plans of the diligent *lead* surely to plenty, But *those of everyone who is hasty*, surely to poverty. (NKJV)

Proverbs 10:4 ⁴ He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich. (NKJV)

J. Alec Motyer “We speak to ourselves as if life were our right, as if our choice were the only deciding factor, [and] as if we had in ourselves all that was needed to make a success of things ...”

Proverbs 27:1 ¹ Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth. (NKJV)

Douglas Moo “Illness, accidental death, or the return of Christ could cut short our lives just as quickly as the morning sun dissipates the mist or as a shift in wind direction blows away smoke.”

Proverbs 16:9 ⁹ A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 4:19 ¹⁹ But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power. (NKJV)

Anthony Selvaggio “Knowing that God is in charge of our plans, and our futures, allows us to alleviate anxiety and experience peace. This is the blessing of providence, and James wants you to know the liberating power of this blessing. Therefore, construct all your plans on the foundation of providence.”

WSC 14 Q. What is sin? A. Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.

Douglas Moo “He has urged us to take the Lord into consideration in all our planning. We therefore have no excuse in this matter: we know what we are to do. To fail not to do it, James wants to make clear, is sin.”