

*Planning for the Future*  
*James 4:13-17 & 5:7-11*

The desire to \_\_\_\_\_ the future isn't new, but history teaches that those who worked hardest to secure their futures without God lost \_\_\_\_\_. Planning is not wrong. Biblical heroes like \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ made and executed important plans. But we must be \_\_\_\_\_ planners. When planning, we should know our limitations and seek the Lord's guidance.

Our plans are not humble plans when we start to \_\_\_\_\_ about the future. Making plans and then worrying that the future might not unfold as we planned reflects \_\_\_\_\_, not humility, according to James. According to Jesus, such worrying is more \_\_\_\_\_ than Christian. When the faithful plan, we do so with a heavy dose of humility and trust in the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

James wrote in verse 17, "If anyone knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them." In context, this text means that planning without accounting for our \_\_\_\_\_ and God's gracious \_\_\_\_\_ often causes us to \_\_\_\_\_ the good that God is calling us to do today. If any plan of yours is serving as an \_\_\_\_\_ not to do today the thing you know you ought to be doing, it is \_\_\_\_\_. Seek His kingdom and righteousness today. Keep doing that and your tomorrows, with God's blessing, will have a funny way of \_\_\_\_\_.

In **James 5:7**, James returns to the theme of preparing for the future, but this time it is preparing by considering the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus. Both James and Jesus warn us that the only planning for the future which will produce a certain outcome is planning for the day when we will \_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord and give \_\_\_\_\_ for ourselves. According to the Scriptures, planning for that day involves committing our lives to be \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ His death on the cross as payment for our sins. Then He will produce for us the only future that is \_\_\_\_\_ to be all that we could ever hope for or need: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, eternal life with Christ.