

Living in a God-fearing Way in a God-ignoring World

James 4:13-17

Although we live in a world where it seems normal to not acknowledge God, and it seems weird or abnormal to acknowledge God, God himself (the Holy Spirit) through the human author of this letter (James) is calling us to live in a God-fearing way in a God-ignoring world.

Yes, those of us who are now God's people by God's grace are called to intentionally, actively, consistently live in a way that acknowledges our Lord even though and even when we may be surrounded by people who don't.

The Folly of and the Remedy for God-ignoring Planning (4:13-15)

- Planning, doing business, and making a profit is not a problem.
- Actually, the Bible is pro-planning and "pro-business."
- What is a problem is planning, doing business, making a profit, or doing anything else we do in a God-less way.

And it is evil and it must be avoided because that is not who we are anymore! As sinners who now fear the LORD and belong to the LORD by His grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, that M.O. does not fit our new ID. We, by God's grace, are now God's people. And God's people should not live in God's world like God does not exist. That's how we used to live! But now we should openly, actively acknowledge our God!

All of us plan for tomorrow (and we should), but we should plan for tomorrow very aware that tomorrow may never come for us.

There is only One who is in complete control, and His control includes your "this or that." God alone is sovereign over your "this or that," so plan and talk and live accordingly.

The Arrogance and Evil of God-ignoring Planning (4:16-17)

- "The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate."
-Proverbs 8:13 (ESV)
- Making plans and living in a way that fails to acknowledge God are sins of **omission** (of failing to do the right thing, of failing to do what we ought to do as dependent creatures living in our Creator's world while totally indebted to our Creator for what we are and have).
- Both making plans without God and taking praise that belongs to God is evil.

Does the truth that He sustains your life and is sovereign over your life show up in your everyday thoughts? Does it make a difference in how you think through your life and make your plans? It should.

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

By God's grace it can.

We **want** to be and we **can** be those who live a **Coram Deo** and a **Deo Volente** lifestyle. *Coram Deo* is Latin for "before the face of God" or "in the presence of God." *Deo Volente* is Latin for "if God wills."

We are always in His presence, and our lives and our future are always in His hands. And we should live in a way which actively acknowledges both of those realities. It's **not enough** to know those truths. We must regularly recognize those truths in our everyday lives. **Where** do you need to do so? **How** will you do so going forward?

No matter how it shows up on the outside of us, it must be happening on the inside of us. We may or may not say, "if the Lord wills" in a certain situation. We may or may not pray out loud in a specific setting. But what we **must** do in our hearts is actively acknowledge God's existence and sovereignty in **all** of our planning and living.

*By the grace that God gives to the humble, let's do this this year
or for however long we live.*