

**NEW YEAR
MAKING PLANS FOR A NEW YEAR
JAMES 4:13-17**

INTRODUCTION

Another year has almost gone into the record books and a **NEW YEAR** will be upon us soon!

The year 2022 will be history in just a few more days—at midnight 3 days from now! Most of it is already history! What we have done is what we have done! We cannot relive any portion of 2022!

Many people are already **MAKING PLANS** of what they will do in 2023

Some **PLAN** out when spring break is, when school ends and when it begins again.

Some **PLAN** out when they will go on vacation and many other things depending on how organized they are!

Some just fly by the seat of their pants without much, if any, **PLANNING!**

Some people look at this Scripture in our text as an excuse to **FOREGO PLANNING**. They look at **PLANNING** as evil.

However, that is not what this is talking about, but rather **it is speaking to us about some things that we should keep in mind as we PLAN!**

There is nothing inherently evil about PLANNING. In fact, **PLANNING is BIBLICAL.** As we look at the life of **JESUS** we can see that **JESUS** planned **HIS** life. Our **SALVATION** in **HIM** was planned before the foundation of the world!

It's a good thing to have some **GOALS** in our lives as **BELIEVERS**. Someone said that *“failing to plan is planning to fail.”*

Maybe we should have some Financial goals!

Maybe we should have some Personal goals!

Most definitely we should have some Spiritual goals!

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Nevertheless, in whatever **PLANNING** that we do, we must stay focused on some things:

I. IN PLANNING, KEEP IN MIND THE UNCERTAINTIES OF LIFE!

A. We Don't Know What Tomorrow May Hold For Us!
Proverbs 27:1—“Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”

Think of Joseph, Mary, the Shepherds, the Wise Men all of which, no doubt, had other **plans** they had made that were interrupted. Sometimes **GOD** messes with our **PLANS** with **PLANS OF HIS OWN!**

Illustration: Remember the vows of marriage? *“For better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health till death do you part.”*

This year may bring a **catastrophe** to some—earthquake, fire, flood, tornado, hurricane, blizzard or some other!
(e.g. The Bethlehem mothers in Matthew 2 whose babies were killed by Herod.)

This year may bring **ill health** to some—cancer, heart attack, or sickness or disease of some other sort; or even an injury!

This year may even bring **death** for some of us or some loved one of ours—from an illness or injury!

This year may bring **prosperity** to some—job promotion, inheritance, some other unexpected windfall!

This year may bring **poverty**—job loss or some other loss or even inflation! *(e.g. Job)*

B. We Don't Know If We Will Even Have A Tomorrow!

Who of us can say that we know for certain that we will be here tomorrow?

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II. IN PLANNING, KEEP IN MIND THE CERTAINTIES OF LIFE!

A. The Certainty That The Word Of God Is True!

Psalm 12:6—“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.”

John 17:17—“Thy Word is Truth.”

B. The Certainty That This Life Is Short!

James 4:14b—“For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time.”

Psalm 39:5—“Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity.”

C. The Certainty Of Death!

James 4:14c—“. . .then vanisheth away.”

Psalm 89:47—“What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?”

Hebrews 9:27—“And as it is appointed unto men once to die. . . (Statistics bear out the fact that death affects 1 out of every 1!)”

D. The Certainty Of The Return Of Jesus For His Own!

John 14:3—“I will come again, and receive you unto myself.”

E. The Certainty Of Leaving This World Empty Handed!

1 Timothy 6:7—“For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.”

Luke 12:15-21

F. The Certainty Of Coming Judgment!

Hebrews 9:27—“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”

Proverbs 5:21—“For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.”

Numbers 32:23—“. . .be sure your sin will find you out.”
Many will have regrets on judgment day!

*IN PLANNING, KEEP IN MIND THE UNCERTAINTIES OF LIFE!
IN PLANNING, KEEP IN MIND THE CERTAINTIES OF LIFE!*

III. IN PLANNING, KEEP IN MIND THE LORD OF LIFE!

James 4:15—“For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”

Too many people leave **GOD** out of their lives to their own demise!

A. GOD Has A Plan For Each Of Our Lives!

1. It Includes SALVATION!

John 3:7—“Ye must be born again.”

2. It Includes SANCTIFICATION!

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5—“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

1 Peter 1:15—“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation”

3. It Includes SACRIFICE!

Romans 12:1—“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

**NEW YEAR
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JAMES 4:13-17**

4. It Includes SERVICE!

James 4:17– “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”

5. It Includes So Much More.

Proverbs 3:5-6–Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

B. GOD Wants Us To Find And Do HIS WILL For Our Lives!

Ephesians 5:17–“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”

C. GOD Will Ultimately Determine Our End Including Our Eternal Destiny!

Our **JUDGE** is a holy, righteous, and just **GOD WHO** will judge according to **HIS WORD!**

Conclusion

What **PLANS** have you made or are you making for this **NEW YEAR?**

“What be your theme in 2023?”

Remember, there is nothing wrong with our making **PLANS** as long as:

1. We include **GOD** in those **PLANS** and,
2. We allow for **GOD** to mess with our **PLANS. (HE is LORD!)**
What if **GOD** messes with **YOUR PLANS** this year so that He can get glory from your life? Are you OK with that?

But make sure you include **GOD** in your **PLANS?**

And make sure that you are ready to meet **GOD** should **HE** call you home!

Whatever your PLANS, determine to WALK WITH THE LORD this coming year! **DRAW NEAR TO HIM! LEAN ON HIM!**

If the year **2023** should bring hardship, I can assure you that you can trust **GOD** to get you through the difficult times!