

Intro:

XIII. Responding to the Will of God

A. The Foolishness of Ignoring God's Will - vs 13-14 - Practical Atheism - living as if God did not exist

1. Come now
 - a. a call to attention - listen up
 - b. appears only here and 5:1
2. you who say,
 - a. lit - the one who are saying
 - i. means to say something based on reason and logic - not the problem
 - ii. indicates they are habitually living disregarding God's will
 - b. James' rebuke is b/c they are making and articulating plans as if God doesn't exist or care
3. 5 presumptions
 - a. "Today or tomorrow - choosing their own time
 - b. we will go to such and such a city - choosing their own location for doing business
 - c. spend a year there, - choosing their own duration
 - d. buy and sell, - choosing their own enterprise
 - e. and make a profit" - choosing their own goal or objective
4. illustrating the folly presumptuously leaving God out of one's planning - Lu 12:16-21
5. two reasons why presumptuously leaving God out of one's planning is foolish
 - a. you don't know the future
 - i. Pr 27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.
 - ii. Things we don't know
 - forces, events, people, contingencies going on behind the scenes
 - circumstance over which we have no control making it impossible for anyone to assure any specific outcome
 - b. the brevity of life - Scripture repeatedly stresses the shortness of human life
 - i. OT - Job 7:6-7; 9:25-26; 14:1-2; Ps 90:10
 - ii. NT - Jas 1:10; 1Pe 1:24
 - c. The unknown future and brevity of life should give pause to those foolishly ignoring God's will

B. The Arrogance of Denying God's Will - vs 16 - Practiced Self-ism - refusing to submit the uncertainties of life to God

1. But now you boast in your arrogance.
 - a. **kauchaomai** - to vaunt:--(make) boast, glory, joy, rejoice.
 - i. in a good sense - Ro 5:2-3
 - ii. in a bad sense - 1 Co 1:19
 - b. **alazoneia** - braggadocio, self-confidence:--boasting, pride.
 - i. root word meaning to wander about
 - ii. Reflects empty pretense
2. All such boasting is evil - **poneros** - hurtful, evil, calamitous; ill, diseased; culpable, derelict, vicious, mischief, malice, guilt; the devil, sinners:--bad, evil, grievous, harm, lewd, malicious, wicked(-ness).

C. The Sin of Disobeying God's Will - vs 17

1. Therefore, to him who knows to do good
 - a. This person acknowledges God and that He has a will, and affirms that is right, then proceeds to disobey it
 - b. *kalos* - beautiful, good, valuable or virtuous, fair, good(-ly), honest, meet, well, worthy.
 - c. Gods will is expressed in all the commands in God's word
 - i. to be saved - 1 Ti 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9
 - ii. to be Spirit filled - Eph 5:17-18
 - iii. to be sanctified - 1 Th 4:3-8
 - iv. to be submissive - 1 Pe 2:13-15
 - v. to suffer - 1 Pe 3:7
 - d. the person doing the 5 things above is delighting themselves in the LORD, And the Lord promises to give the desires of their heart. - Ps 37:4 - He plants them and fulfills them
2. the one who knows God's will is responsible to do it and if not, it is sin
 - a. Thinking you can live life
 - i. ignoring God
 - ii. Refusing to submit to God
 - b. it is sin

D. The Blessing of Acknowledging God's Will

1. Instead - giving a positive response as a contrast to the other three negative responses to God's will
2. to say
 - a. present infinitive - saying
 - b. reveals submission to God's will must be habitual and continual
3. If the Lord wills
 - a. what God desires is central to plan making
 - b. affirms His sovereignty overall aspects of life
4. we shall live
 - a. we do not know or control the moment of our death
 - b. God controls life and death
 - i. Ps 139:16b And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.
 - ii. De 32:39 'Now see that I, even I, am He, And there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.
 - d. This is why David says in Ps 39:4-5 "LORD, make me to know my end, And what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am. Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my age is as nothing before You; Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. Selah
5. and do this or that."
 - a. God is sovereign over every detail of life
 - b. regardless of what we may do
 - i. all is to be done to the Glory of God (in worship of, showing His character through) - 1 Co 10:31
 - ii. Worship is to come from the heart - Eph 6:6
 - iii. It is to be a way of life - Col 1:9-10; 4:12
 - iv. It is to be done through His power - Heb 13:20-21
6. In Jo 13:17, Jesus says "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.