

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: March 5, 2017
James 4:13-17

1. Who is James talking to in this passage?
 - a. Everybody.
 - b. People who say “Today or tomorrow we will go to this city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.”
 - c. People who make plans without regard for God’s will.

2. Is this the only place in scripture where we find this type of teaching? Yes_____ No_____ Where else can it be found? _____

3. Does this mean that God is against planning (See verse 15 and see also Proverbs 16:1-3, 9, 19:21)? Yes_____ No_____ Explain. _____

4. What seems to be the goal of the plans James is addressing?
 - a. They seemed to be anxious to see people come to Christ.
 - b. They seemed to be making plans for the benefit of others.
 - c. They are looking to “carry on business and make money.”

5. What does James say is the problem with making such plans?
 - a. Well, he just spent an entire section of the letter talking about friendship with the world (that it means enmity against God).
 - b. He reminds us that we do not even know what will happen tomorrow...
 - c. He reminds us that our live is a mist (or vapor) that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

6. How should we plan, if we are going to plan ahead, according to 4:15?
 - a. Say “if it is the Lord’s will.”
 - b. Actually take God’s will into account when we plan.
 - c. Allow God to change our plans if he chooses.

7. What does James call the way these people are talking about their plans? _____

8. What does James say, in 4:17, is sin?
 - a. Falling short of God’s perfect plan.
 - b. Knowing the good that you ought to do but not doing it.

9. How does this apply to the rest of the text?
 - a. It doesn’t, it is just tacked on the end.
 - b. We plan without consulting God.
 - c. We tend to ignore God’s will for our lives when it doesn’t match up to what we want to do.
 - d. When we make plans without listening to his will for our lives, we end up in sin.
 - e. The selfishness of those who James is talking to has caused them to do what they want instead of doing the good that God has called them to...and they don’t even seem to realize that this is the very definition of sin...or enmity against God (maybe because they aren’t doing the bad things that they used to do).

10. How do you make plans for your life? _____