



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

A Living Faith Pursues God's Will

JANUARY 18, 2012

Tom McCullough / PO Box 503, Granville, OH. 43023/ tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org / www.capitolcom.org.

The Epistle of James' (AD 45-50) likely author was James, the half-brother of Jesus Christ, a humble man, the leader of the Jerusalem church and the leader of the Council of Jerusalem. While James is addressing the twelve tribes that had scattered to all parts of the world and attempts to be encouraging to the believing Jews who were struggling with trials and tribulations, he confronts the issue of the testing and fruit of a faithful Christian's walk and the wise Godly righteous reactions of him when grounded in total faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers will battle the enemies of the world, their flesh and Satan (3:15). Wisdom's foundation is either from man or from God, and people will need to make a choice. How does the world, and many times Christians, treat life's daily and long term planning? (James 4:13-17 NASB)

"Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away." (4:13-14)

Many ignore God's will and plan for their lives. James is not condemning all business or life planning, but rather condemning the planning that omits or leaves God out of the picture. Leaving God out of the picture grows from a prideful, arrogant and self-confident attitude that is exhibited in a boastful, self-driven and self-focused success; this is setting one's self up as God and is a dead faith. People do not know what the next day will bring. Only God know what tomorrow will bring.

"Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth." (Pr 27:1)

Life is brief. James compares it to a vapor (4:14), which appears and disappears quickly. Human life is short and numbered by God. In comparison to eternity, a person's life is like a blink of an eye.

"Man is like a mere breath; His days are like a passing shadow." (Ps144:4)

How should a believer respond?

"Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil." (4:15-16)

A living faith seeks God's will. James directs believers to first understand that their existence depends on God's will and subsequently they must seek God's will in any and all planning and actions in their lives. Our lives are in the hands of God. Failing to recognize God's sovereign nature and boasting arrogantly is evil. Any boasting, for the believer, will be in the Lord. (1Co1:31; Ps 44:8 & 34:2)

"Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin." (4:17)

Sins of omission and commission. James shares that when a person knows the right thing to do, however fail to do it, it is sin to him. Sins of omission directly lead to sins of commission. A living faith seeks to know and do God's will.

"Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen." (Heb 13:20-21)

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44
STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44