

Sermon Notes

"The Test of Tomorrow"

James 4:13-17

10/30/22

- 1) We began our study by engaging James' exhortation, "Count it all **joy**, my brothers, when you face **trials** of many kinds."
 - a) For, this is the way that God builds, strengthens and refines our **faith**, leading us to the **crown** of life.
 - i) The only alternative to this was to follow our **sinful** desires/tendencies, which will lead to **death**.
 - ii) This led to the series title: **Choose** Faith.
- 2) We then saw that our faith needed to be placed not simply, "in **God**," or, "in the **love/grace/power**/etc. of God," but specifically, "in the **word** of God."
 - a) For, through it alone God has chosen to **sufficiently** reveal himself for our **salvation**.
 - i) Both for our **entry** into faith but also for the **journey**.
 - b) Choosing **faith**, then, means choosing to **follow** what God's word **tells** us.
 - i) Receiving with **meekness** the implanted word, which can save our souls, rather than **arguing** with it.
- 3) The **balance** of the letter of James, then, consists of a **series** of examples.
 - a) The test of **partiality**.
 - b) The test of **works**.
 - c) The **test** of the **tongue**.
 - d) The test of **wisdom**.
 - e) The test of **worldliness**.
 - f) Today we look at the test of _____.
- 4) There are three main ways in which the _____ of tomorrow creates a _____ for us.
 - a) _____ on the _____ of tomorrow.
 - i) No matter how ____ we are, none of us have ever experienced a day when tomorrow _____.
 - (1) One might think that this fact would _____ some of our _____ regarding this test of tomorrow.
 - (a) But, James doesn't seem to _____ it that way.
 - (b) Rather, in our presuming on tomorrow James already sees what is _____ inside us.
 - ii) All right _____ about tomorrow begins with:
 - (1) A deep awareness of our _____ and (vs. 14)
 - (2) A deep awareness of our ongoing _____ on the _____ of God.
(vs. 15)
 - iii) This is an important part of the doctrine of the _____ of God. (Lord's Day 10)
 - iv) Only when we live with a conscious recognition that every _____ is a _____ from God will we be careful to _____ every breath for his _____. (Psalm 90:12)
 - v) This is why God sometimes gives us _____ experiences.
 - b) _____ the _____ of tomorrow.
 - i) When we _____ on the coming of tomorrow we soon begin to _____ it for ourselves.
 - (1) Just as _____ enjoyed the good things of life by _____ what did not belong to them, so too do we when we claim tomorrow for our own _____ and _____.

- ii) All right _____ regarding tomorrow grows from a deep understanding that he who _____ our breaths one at a time has his own _____ for how they are _____.
- (1) This _____ we cannot make plans for tomorrow.
 - (2) But, it does mean that we must _____ them with, "If the Lord _____, we will _____ and..."
 - (a) By prefacing our plans for _____ in this way:
 - (i) it changes the way we live _____.
 - (ii) it serves as a _____ on the _____ of things we are planning.
 - (iii) it _____ to those _____ us.
 1. James instructs us on what we should _____, not just how we should _____.
 - a. "_____ I am given comes one by one as a _____ of God almighty."
 - b. "When I say that my life _____ to him, I mean every _____ of it."
 - c. "Therefore, I will only _____ what I believe he would likely _____."
 - d. "But, my calendar is always _____ in _____."
- iii) Choosing not to preface our plans, then, is a _____ of _____.
- (1) Whether these things don't ever _____ to you or whether they do and you _____ anyway.
- c) _____ for the _____ of tomorrow.
- i) When we have claimed tomorrow for our own plans and pleasures our _____ become _____ on the things of earth. (Matthew 6:21)
 - (1) While it is not wrong to _____ God's good gifts for this life (marriage, _____, grandchildren, satisfying work, _____ to enjoy, etc.) these too must always be prefaced with, "If the Lord _____, we will live and..." otherwise we begin living for the _____ rather than the _____.
 - (2) For, every plan for our _____ tomorrows must find its place within his great plan for our _____ tomorrow.
 - (3) Rather than focusing on what we are going to do to be more _____, we need to tailor our plans toward being more _____.
 - (a) Otherwise, we will be _____ our lives _____ from what James has already told us about how God will _____ us to glory.
 - (i) It's not principally by giving us _____, but by giving us _____.
- 5) What _____ have you made, or are you making, for _____?
- a) Let us not _____ on the _____ of tomorrow.
 - i) That we might live _____ to God in each _____ today.
 - b) Let us not _____ the _____ of tomorrow.
 - i) That we might seek above all _____ for each moment he gives.
 - c) Let us not _____ for the _____ of tomorrow.
 - i) That our _____ might not be tied to the things of _____ world, but to the things of the world to _____.
- 6) Today, James once again holds up the _____ of the perfect law that gives _____ for us, this time regarding the test of _____.
- a) _____ do you _____?