

JAMES STUDY

CHAPTER 4:13-17

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-311 OCTOBER 4, 1998

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“The Answer to Life’s Greatest Question”

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
- deceiving yourselves.

INTRODUCTION: The Reading of The Text vv. 13-17

Text Summation

Within the Heart, the Mind, the Life of Every Human Being lays the Greatest Question that has ever faced Mankind - That Question Being “What is My Life All About? - Why Do I Exist? - What Is The Purpose To My Life?”

14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. **For what is your life?** It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away

James' Point is:

This world's view is in Opposition to The Kingdom's view

“you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”

Luke 16:13

“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

“In Planning Your Life, Make sure you include God”

Last Week:

“Things That Christians Do”

The eight birthmarks of the believer

a.) Birthmark #1 - Christians **Submit** to God’s Desires

b.) #2 - Christians **Resist** The Attacks of Satan

c.) #3 - **Seeking** God Above All Other Things

d.) #4 - **Leaving** the Old World Behind Us

f.) #6 - **Determined** to Live in the Presence of God

g.) #7 - Christians **Exercise** Grace Toward Others

h.) #8 - Christians **Yield** to the Rule of God

James 4:6-7

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

*Are we going to Follow God
or are we Going to Pursue what the World Offers*

Galatians 6:7

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

“The Answer to Life’s Greatest Question”

James 4:13-17

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; ¹⁴ whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." ¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

“The Answer to Life’s Greatest Question”

1.) Is That, You & I Do Not Have All the Answers

vv. 13

Come now, you who say, "**Today** or **tomorrow** we will go to such and such a city, spend **a year** there, buy and sell, and make a profit";

You & I Do Not Have All the Answers

1a.) Because Our Normal Perceptions are Wrong

Come now, you who say,

"Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city

Come now, you who say,

The Individual in Contrast to the Crowd

- * Come now grk 33 age (ag'-eh);
singular imperative of 71; properly, lead, come on:

KJV-- go to. singular. A person. Come you personally, you privately, as an individual

“You Come Now”

- * You who say grk 3588 ho (ho);
they, those, the ones who say, they say that...
plural. What the majority says, what everyone else is saying

“They Who Say”

You, now Come Over here, because (they) who say,

A Challenge is Given by a Command

Well, Everybody’s Doing It

as though the popular opinion sets the rule of law

“Answering Life’s Greatest Question”

we don’t have the answer within ourselves

You & I Do Not Have All the Answers

1b.) Because We Have a Wrong Perception of Time

You who say,

"**Today or tomorrow** we will go to such and such a city

Today or tomorrow

today, tomorrow... the spending of time and money

You & I Do Not Have All the Answers

1c.) Because Our Will Can Never Dictate Reality

The Pursuit of a Profit

We will go to such and such a city,
spend a year there, **buy and sell**, and to make a profit"

* **buy and sell** grk 1710 emporeuomai (em-por-yoo'-om-ahee);
to walk about buying and trading. To make merchandise.
(Latin = Nordstromes - Greek = Nieman Marcus

Normal Perceptions are wrong

We “Will to go” - to such and such a city

We Think we control our time (how it’s spent) and what we
do (buy, sell and make a profit)

Matthew 6:34

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

It's Actually a Sinful Practice to be Preoccupied with
The Making of a Profit
This Week on CNN, ABC, CBS,

WE HAVE NOT BEEN CREATED TO MAKE A PROFIT

You & I Do Not Have All the Answers

1d.) Because Our Motives are Self-Centered

And **to make a profit**

Profit Making is Not Why You Were Born

But Everybody's Doing It

"Just Follow Your Heart"
said Jiminy Cricket to Pinocchio

We Cannot Guarantee our Future

"Answering Life's Greatest Question"

2.) Is We Don't Have Control Over Life's Situations vv. 14

Whereas **you do not know** what will happen tomorrow.
For what is your life? It is even a **vapor** that appears for a little time
and then **vanishes** away

We Don't Have Control Over Life's Situations

2a.) Our Lives are Fragile and Uncertain

whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow

The Uncertainty of Life

#1

you do not know what will happen tomorrow

Illness / Cancer / Stock Market / The Weather

Illustration of the Point

Luke 12:13-15

Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

But He Dies With the Most Toys Wins!!!

“for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

Luke 12:16-21

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. ¹⁷ "And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' ¹⁸ "So he said, 'I will do this: **(I WILL GIVE MORE TO GODS WORK)** I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ¹⁹ 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry. **(GOD BLESS AMERICA)** "' ²⁰ "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' ²¹ "**So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.**"

#2

It is even a **vapor** that appears for a little time
and then **vanishes** away

It is Fleeting Away...

We Don't Have Control Over Life's Situations

2b.) Because of The Brevity of Life

For what is your life?

It is even a vapor that appears for a **little time** and then vanishes away

* vaporgrk 853 aphanizo (af-an-id'-zo);
to disappear from site, to vanish away to no longer be considered

“Hey, Do You Guy’s Remember Joe - Joe Who?”

For what is your life?

Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Where is it?

Psalms 39:4

"Show me, O LORD, my life's end and the number of my days;
let me know how frail is my life.

For what is your life?

Psalms 39:5-7

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 ⁶ Surely every man walks about like a shadow; surely they busy themselves in vain; he heaps up riches, and does not know who will gather them. ⁷ "And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You.

Psalms 90:9-10

All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. ¹⁰ The length of our days is seventy years-- or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

1 Peter 1:24-25

because "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, ²⁵ But the word of the Lord endures forever."

Psalms 144:4

Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.

Mister, Where Are You Going When You Die?

Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter into life by the narrow gate; because wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to eternal destruction, and there are many people who going that way. ¹⁴ Because narrow is The Gate and difficult is The Way which leads to eternal life, and there are few who find it."

Proverbs 14:12

There are ways that seems right to a man, but the end of his way is death.

John 10:10

"The thief (satan) has come to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.
But I have come that they (those once ripped off, dead, and destroyed) may have life, and that they may have life **more abundantly**."

NOT JUST "more life" - BUT "abundant life"

- * More abundant grk 4053 perissos (per-is-sos');
superabundant. in quantity and in quality) to have excessive life; to **posses preminent life**, life which is exceedingly and above; what is common

"Answering Life's Greatest Question"

3.) Is We Must Learn to Let Go of Our Lives

vv. 15

Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

- * **Instead** grk 473 anti (an-tee');
opposite to this, i.e. instead or in contrast to

In the place of what everyone else is saying...
Say "His Will Be Done"

3a.) Yielded and Willing to Surrender to God (period)

Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills

God is Not Concerned with Your Happiness
God is Not Concerned with Your Happiness

God is Not Concerned with Your Happiness

God is Not Concerned with Your Happiness

Illustration

Acts 21:8-14

On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. ⁹ Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. ¹⁰ And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹ When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" ¹² Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." ¹⁴ So when he would not be persuaded we ceased, saying, "**The will of the Lord be done.**"

1 Corinthians 16:7

For I do not wish to see you now on the way; but I hope to stay a while with you, if the Lord permits.

1 Corinthians 4:19a

But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills,

“Answering Life’s Greatest Question” ...Why?

Job 7:6-10

"My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope. ⁷ Oh, remember that my life is a breath! My eye will never again see good. ⁸ The eye of him who sees me will see me no more; while your eyes are upon me, I shall no longer be. ⁹ As the cloud disappears and vanishes away, so he who goes down to the grave does not come up. ¹⁰ He shall never return to his house, nor shall his place know him anymore.

People Who Bungie Jump Blow My Mind

Have you considered a bungie cord lately?

How did this ever Happen?

Maybe Aunt Jamima and Uncle Ben just finished unpacking from vacation and Jamima say's 'Benny, I wonder what to do with my bungie cord...

“Answering Life’s Greatest Question”

But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.
¹⁷ Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it,
to him it is sin.

4a.) It's Time to Surrender HIS life back to Him

But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Boasting Against Gods Will

People are Seeking to Upgrade their Lives for themselves

~ Get More Money

Proverbs 23:5

Will you set your eyes upon that which has no meaning? because riches will certainly make itself wings; and it will fly away like an eagle!

~ Get More Happiness

1 Timothy 5:6

But woman who lives after pleasure is dead even while she lives.

**Are the purposes of God
controlling the plans of
my life?**

4b.) "Willing" to do His Purposes above my Desires

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it,
to him it is sin.

Do You Really Want to do the Will of God?

Then Get on the Alter

Isaiah 59:1-3

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. ² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. ³ For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue has muttered perversity.

The Call

Romans 13:11-12

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

Jesus Turned The Table

2 Corinthians 4:16

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

You've Tried So Hard to Make Your Life Count in This World
what good have you done / what monumental breakthrough is Yours

Luke 17:33

"Whoever **seeks to save his life** will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

Seeks to save his life

* seeks grk 2212 zeteo (dzay-teh'-o);
a false form of worship. To go about desiring, endeavoring and, inquiring. To search here and there

People are Like Squirrels
Looking Here & There for Nuts

Fall is Here

and the Squirrels are out there seeking after nuts...

Nuts are not what's on their minds - the fact is that "winter is coming"

The Conclusion / The Challenge

What's Your Problem Today? - *it always has been your problem*

John 5:37-40

"And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. ³⁸ "But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. ³⁹ "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. ⁴⁰ "But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

John 6:47-48

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. ⁴⁸ "I am the bread of life.