

Life is a Vapor  
Grace Church  
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*James 4:13-17*

Our passage makes four points:

I. Life is a vapor.

This means three things:

A. Life is frail. *James 4:14*

- We don't even know what will happen ten minutes from now, let alone tomorrow or next year!

B. Life is short. *James 4:14*

1. A vapor is short-lived.

*Psalm 90:10*      *Psalm 90:12*

2. Only God can give me the wisdom I need to spend those days profitably in light of eternity.

C. Death is certain. *James 4:14*

II. God is sovereign. *James 4:15*

A. This means, we are **not** sovereign!

B. The problem was not that these businessmen were making plans for the future.

C. The problem was, they were planning as if they were sovereign.

D. James implies that you should acknowledge God as the sovereign over your business life.

III. Pride is a great sin that easily plagues us all.

*James 4:13*

*James 4:16*

- A. It is possible for a Christian to fall into practical atheism.
  
- B. It's easy for us as Christians to think, "I have succeeded because of my own hard work."

*1 Corinthians 4:7*

IV. Humble obedience to God's will is our only reasonable course.      *James 4:17*

"He has urged us to take the Lord into consideration in all our planning. We therefore have no excuse in this matter; we know what we are to do. To fail now to do it, James wants to make clear, is sin." Douglas Moo

- A. This verse applies to all areas of the Christian life.
  
- B. This reminds us of the ongoing necessity for the Gospel.

## V. Conclusion

- A. In view of the fact that life is a vapor, that God is sovereign, that pride is a constant battle, and that obedience to God's will is the only reasonable course:
1. Think about what God wants your life to look like on your deathbed.
  2. Think about what you will have accomplished that matters in light of eternity?
- B. To live your life for the glory of God requires that we live in light of these truths.