

Week of January 22 - He Reigns

Small Group Lesson 13

Connect

A famous saying you may have heard is, “Where there’s a will there’s a way.” What truth is there in that statement, what is not true, and why?

Verses - James 4:13-17 (CSB)

13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will travel to such and such a city and spend a year there and do business and make a profit.” 14 Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like vapor that appears for a little while, then vanishes. 15 Instead, you should say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” 16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So it is sin to know the good and yet not do it.

Study

1. How is the example that James provides an example of a “practical atheist,” or someone who knows God, but acts otherwise? (Proverbs 16:3; Psalms 20:4)

2. Why are these verses an example about leaving God out of the “equation,” and not an example teaching us to plan well? How does prayer fit into the picture? (Proverbs 16:9; Proverbs 19:21)

3. Why is boasting evil? What are we instructed to boast in, as believers? (1 Corinthians 1:31) Why is this boasting approved? Give some simple examples of proper boasting?

☕ **DISCUSS:** While bearing in mind we do now know what tomorrow will bring and life will be, what should motivate us to continue to live? (Matthew 6:33; Philippians 1:19-26 - what motivated Paul?)

🏃 **APPLY:** How can we live better in a way that glorifies God? (v.15) For example, how can your planning be better shaped today by your knowledge of God’s will in Jesus Christ, in your salvation, and knowing the Good News?

Share

How do we balance our own persistence in doing things to stay reliable and consistent, but still trusting God in His sovereignty? (see: Luke 11:9-10; Luke 18:1; Luke 22:42; Matthew 6:10)

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray for the Lord to reveal His plans and will to you.
- Pray how you can glorify God today.