

# James 4:13-17

3 HINDRANCES TO DAILY LIVING A  
GENUINE CHRISTIAN LIFE PRACTICALLY



# Background/Context

- ▶ Author: James (younger brother of Jesus); became leader of NT church in Jerusalem
- ▶ Written (approx. 44-50 AD) to primarily Jewish audience (who had become Christians)
- ▶ Theme: Practical instructions for living  
Christian life: a “How To” manual for following Jesus
- ▶ Called the “Proverbs” of the NT

# Leaving God Out Of Everyday Priorities

- ▶ (v.13 & vv.15-16) James writing to believers who scattered, but called to live Christian life; be in world, but not like world
- ▶ “Come now” – “Attention!, Hear me!, Listen!”
- ▶ Be careful of a life that leaves God out; warning against plans that don't consider God's will and way
- ▶ Readers had chosen their own; way, destinations, timeframes, purposes & outcomes
- ▶ James: Bible not against planning and profits; speaking of life decisions and living that leave God out

- ▶ Matt. 24:37, “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’”



# Leaving The Eternal Out Of Our Daily Perspective

- ▶ (v.14) James; living Christian life means keeping daily awareness of temporary nature of life
- ▶ Must keep eternal things in mind and have balance
- ▶ Leaving God's will and way out of a life, dangerous: we don't know what tomorrow will bring
- ▶ Life to us; unpredictable, uncertain, beyond our knowledge
- ▶ Life for us; like a vapor, mist, breath, puff of smoke, bubble blown on the wind that is gone in a few seconds
- ▶ James instructs; prepare for and live out the perspective life passes quickly; we aren't promised tomorrow

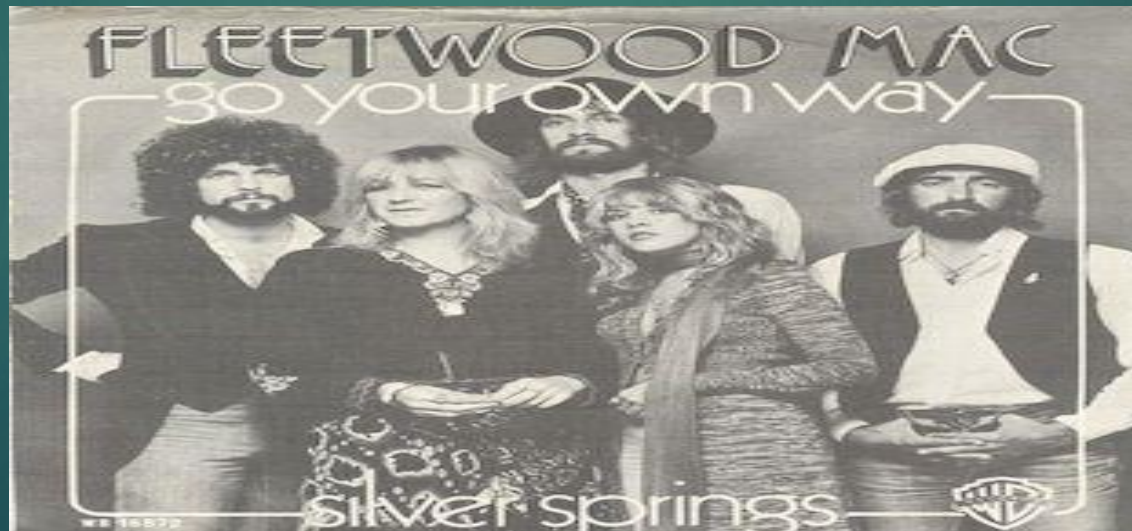
- ▶ Prov. 27:1, “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.”
- ▶ Ps. 90:12, “So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”



# Leaving Godly Action Out Of Our Daily Practice

- ▶ (v.17) James, beloved, be diligent to actually apply teachings of Jesus
- ▶ Take Scripture and put into action; to not do so is rebellion
- ▶ Sin: omission and commission
- ▶ Being silent with the truth is just as bad as telling a lie
- ▶ Believers/Churches to submit to will and way of Jesus and show that by doing what Word says
- ▶ Key to Christian life is abiding in relationship with Jesus; but also living out that relationship with everyday thoughts, words, and actions

- ▶ James 2:17, “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”
- ▶ James 1:22, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”



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