

THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF TODAY

James 4:13-17

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard” (Romans 3:23 NLT).

SIN OF PRESUMPTION

“Now, listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’ As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil” (James 4:13-16 NIV).

Life is Brief

“Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring” (Proverbs 27:1 NIV).

“Teach us to number our days and recognize how few they are: help us to spend them as we should” (Psalm 90:12 LB).

Actions to Take

• Personal Development

“And now just as you trusted Christ to save you, trust Him, too, for each day’s problems; live in vital union with Him. Let your roots grow down into Him and draw up nourishment from Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness” (Colossians 2:6-7 NIV).

“Grow in spiritual strength and become better acquainted with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18 LB).

• Devotion to Others

“The greatest among you must be a servant” (Matthew 23:11 NLT).

“Don’t be selfish; don’t live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don’t just think about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and in what they are doing” (Philippians 2:3-4 LB).

• Devotion to God

“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment” (Matthew 22:37-38 NLT).

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteous lives, and He will give you everything you need” (Matthew 6:33 NLT).

SIN OF OMISSION

• What We Do

“If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them” (James 4:17 NIV).

(continued)

First Baptist Church of Hopewell

Pastor W. Darrell Boggs — March 8, 2020

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says” (James 1:22 NIV).

“So, you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone” (James 2:24 NLT).

- **What We Say**

“Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what He did for me” (Psalm 66:16).

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about me everywhere...” (Acts 1:8 NLT).