

Four False Ideas

James 4:13; 5:7

James 4:13 - Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."

James 5:7 - Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.

Introduction:

- A. When you think of the "future" what comes to your mind? You might not have thought of the term, "Philosophy of Futurism," but it may very well be the way you think. It is defined as, "A belief that the meaning of life and one's personal fulfillment lie in the future and not in the present or past." It is a hope that your future life consists of possessions, i.e., a beautiful home, family, friends, cars, etc.
- B. Far too many people think wrongly and thus prepare inadequately for the future. They do not realize the future will be different if we make the present different. Man spends his life reasoning with the past, complaining about the present, and trembling for the future.
- C. Hopefully, that is not the way you think. But the best thing to save for your future is your soul. So, it would be best to think of life in a certain context, that being life on earth, death, judgment, life in heaven or hell!
- D. The book of James discusses four false ideas about the future:

I. "I Can Plan My Future Without God's Help" - Jas 4:13-16

James 4:13-16 - Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

A. Boasting of a definite future on earth is evil because:

1. It denies God's power and will - Jas 4:15-16
2. It forgets life's uncertainties - Prov 27:1

Proverbs 27:1 - Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

B. The whole of life is to fear God and keep His commandments - Eccl. 12:13-14

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 - The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

1. God gives us instruction on how we should live - Micah 6:8

Micah 6:8 - He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

2. Because of this we should follow His ways - Hosea 12:6

Hosea 12:6 - Therefore, return to your God, Observe kindness and justice, And wait for your God continually.

II. "My Failure To Live Up To What I Know Will Be Excused" - Jas 4:17

James 4:17 - Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

- A. The Jews of Paul's day reasoned falsely on this very matter: - Rom 2:2-3, 5

Romans 2:2-3 - And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things. But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God?

Romans 2:5 - But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

1. They needed to know that God will judge based on things done - Rom 2:6

Romans 2:6 - who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:

2. God does not show respect of persons - Rom. 2:11

Romans 2:11 - For there is no partiality with God.

- a. Money, wealth, education, etc. does not excuse one from responsibility toward God.

- B. To please God, one must know and do the will of the Father: - Jas 4:17; 1:22-25

James 4:17 - Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

James 1:22-25 - But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

III *"If I Get Enough Of This World's Goods, I Shall Be Secure"* - Jas 5:1-3

James 5:1-3 - Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted, and your garments have become moth-eaten. Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!

- A. Note the deterioration of life:

1. God is ignored.
2. Obedience is minimized.
3. Trust in material things exists.

- B. Apart from God, the accumulation of goods brings disillusionment and despair - Lk 12:15

Luke 12:15 - Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

1. Rich have it especially hard - 1 Tim 6:9-10

1 Timothy 6:9-11 - But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

IV *"How I Get What I Get Is No Body's Business"* - Jas 5:4-6

James 5:4-6 - Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. 5 You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.

- A. Some think it is OK to separate their physical and spiritual lives
 - 1. When men repudiate God, they deny an ultimate standard of right and wrong.
 - a. Situation Ethics becomes their norm for activity
 - b. Right and wrong can never adequately defined.
 - 2. Drastic consequences occur when people forget that the law of sowing and reaping functions in the moral realm - Gal. 6:7-8

Galatians 6:7-8 - Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

- B. Certain things are essential while we prepare for the future:

- 1. The "Golden Rule" - Matt. 7:12

Matthew 7:12 - "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

- 2. Honesty with our fellow men - 2 Cor. 8:21

2 Corinthians 8:21 - for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

- 3. Avoiding the taking of advantages over others - Rom. 13:9-10

Romans 13:9-10 - For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.

Conclusion:

- A. The Future: "We already have the statistics for the future: the growth percentages of pollution, overpopulation, desertification. The future is already in place." Günther Grass (b. 1927), German author. Interview in New Statesman & Society (London, June 1990). THIS WAS A CALL FOR IMMEDIATE CHANGE!
- 2. Even so our future is determined by what we are right now. For some changes need to be made (Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30-31). These changes need to be made before it is too late (2 Pet. 3:9-10).

Luke 13:3 - "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Acts 17:30-31 - "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

2 Peter 3:9-10 - The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

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