

Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?

There is more hope for a fool than for him.





JAMES

James 4:13

Now listen, you who say

Self-Reliance

James 5:1

Now listen, you rich people

Self-Indulgence



**Key
Distinctives**

Wisdom-like literature



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Close parallels to the Sermon on the Mount



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Most practical letter of New Testament

Often contrasted to the Letter to the Galatians



Letter of James

BASIC THEME:

Good works flow out of genuine faith.

KEY VERSE:

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. - *James 2:18 niv*



Letter to the Galatians

BASIC THEME:

Justification (salvation-standing) is by faith alone, in Christ alone.

KEY VERSE:

Clearly no one is justified before God by (the works of) the Law, because “the righteous will live by faith.”

- Galatians 3:11 *niv*



JAMES 4: 13 - 17 *niv*

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.” ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.



Arrogant Boast

James 4:13 *niv*

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.”



Wisdom's **Reply**

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

“Mortals, born of woman, are of few days and full of trouble.
² They spring up like flowers and wither away; like fleeting shadows, they do not endure.” - **Job 14:1-2 niv**

My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass. - **Psalms 102:11 niv**



Wisdom's **Rebuke**

James 4:14 *niv*

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.



Wisdom's **Corrective**

James 4:15-16 niv

Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.



Parting Shot

James 4:17 *niv*

If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.



TAKEAWAYS

for “true believers”



Your life **is not**
your own.

You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price.
Therefore honor God with your bodies.
- 1 Corinthians 6:19^b-20 *niv*



Your life **is** a
stewardship gift.

Lord, help me to realize how brief my time on earth will be. Help me to know that I am here for but a moment more. My life is no longer than my hand! My whole lifetime is but a moment to you. Proud man! Frail as breath! A shadow! And all his busy rushing ends in nothing. He heaps up riches for someone else to spend. And so, Lord, my only hope is in you.

- Psalm 39:4-7 *tlb*



Your life **is**
infinitely more than
your planning.

The human mind plans the way,
but the LORD directs the steps. - Proverbs 16:9

I know, LORD, that our lives are not our own,
we are not able to plan our own course.
- Jeremiah 10:23



Your life **is not**
about you.

Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my LORD. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ. - *Philippians 3:8 nlt*

For to me, (Apostle Paul) living means living for Christ...
- *Philippians 1:21 nlt*



Takeaways

for “true believers”

Your life **is not** your own.

Your life **is** a stewardship gift.

Your life **is** infinitely more than your planning.

Your life **is not** about you.



