

Planning vs. Presumption James 4:13-17

Planning is a good thing. God has given us minds in order to make real decisions: “The plans of the diligent surely lead to abundance, but everyone who is hasty only leads to poverty” Proverbs 21:5. But there is a temptation to become *self-sufficient* and elevate *our will* above God’s will.

(James 4:13)

- Logically thinking through a plan does not mean you are living in God’s will!
- Watch out for “I will” statements!
- Instead we ought to say: “If the Lord wills” (**Vs. 15**)

The Sin of Presumption and Arrogance

“To presume something is to not have all the information, yet to have confidence as if you know the outcome. This is *arrogance* (**James 4:16**). Presumptive arrogance is the same temptation Satan fell into (**Isa 14:12-14**)

Three pitfalls to avoid:

1. Living as if God doesn’t exist when we make our plans (Practical Atheism)
2. Knowing God’s will and arrogantly doing what we want to do anyways (Self-Theism)
3. Trying to make God’s will *conform to our own*. (**1 Sam 15:2-3, 7-9, 12-21**)

James warns us that we live presumptuously when we don’t consider the brevity of our life: “Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring, what is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes” (**James 4:14**)

- Plans are fragile, and God alone is the one that allows them to be accomplished
- Our minds (rationally and intellectually thinking through our plans) have the capacity to lead us astray (**Prov 19:21**)
- Our hearts (plans made from our passions and desires) also have the capacity to lead us astray (**Prov 16:9**)

“Passions are meant to be governed and guided by our minds, and our minds were meant to be governed and guided by God. God over mind, mind over passions” - Joe Rigney

The Cure for Presumption

- Live with eternity on our minds: **Psalm 90:12** “So teach us to number our days, that we may get a heart of wisdom”
- Humble yourself, and recognize God is in control, not you (**Dan 4:30-33,36-37**)
- Consider God first in our plans (**1 Chron 29:10-18, James 4:15,17**)

Utilize the means in which God has given you to discern His will. He has given you His Word (**2 Tim 3:16-17**), Prayer in order to ask for wisdom (**James 1:5-8**) and leaders who are able to guide you and give you counsel (**Prov 15:22, Heb 13:7,17**).

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of August we are collecting monetary donations for the Bobb family, who live and serve in Cambodia. For more information about the Bobbs and their work in Cambodia, please see the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. There is a container on the back table for your monetary donations, or you can give on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for the Bobbs.

★**CEDAR POINT:** Christina is organizing a group trip to Cedar Point on August 17th. Group Admission tickets are \$48 each (minimum of 15 people). Please contact Christina if you would like to go or you have any questions! Christina's phone number is 740-755-6512.

★**COMMUNION:** We will be partaking of and celebrating Communion together as a church body THIS Sunday, August 4th.

★**HOSPITALITY MINISTRY MEETING:** If you currently serve in the Hospitality Ministry, or if you are interested in serving in that ministry, there will be a meeting THIS Sunday, August 18th, immediately following the worship service. Please plan to stay for this important meeting. If you have any questions, please see Madison Ardrey.