

***TO LIVE IS CHRIST*****Warnings to the Rich****James 4:13—5:6**

*“...you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’”* James 4:15

**Day 1: Read James 4:13—5:6.**

1. What words would you use to describe the tone of this passage? Why do you think James uses this tone?
2. In 4:13–17, James warns his readers against the sin of presumption.
  - a. What are they presuming?
  - b. What are they doing in light of their presumptions?
  - c. What does their presumption reveal about their hearts (4:16)?
  - d. What does it reveal about God’s place in their thoughts, plans, and daily activities?

**Day 2: Read James 4:13—17.**

3. What images do James and other biblical writers use to describe the nature of a person’s life? (vs. 14; Ps. 39:5; 102:3, 11; 103:15–16)
4. These images are intended to highlight both the uncertainty and brevity of life. In light of these realities,
  - a. What attitudes does James exhort his readers to have? (vs. 15; cf. 4:6)
  - b. What does James admonish his readers to do?
5. Tacking the words “...if the Lords wills” onto statements about future plans may not be difficult, but it takes more than words to live in a way that recognizes that your life is ordered by a good and sovereign God. Look at the following verses; what do they say about God that helps us to know that his will is good? (Ps. 52:8–9; 62:11–12; Jer. 29:11–13; Matt. 6:31–34; Phil 4:6–7; Jas. 1:5, 17; 1 Jn. 5:18).

**Day 3: Read James 4:13—17.**

6. Why do you think James tells his readers that prideful boasting about one's abilities and accomplishments is evil? (John 15:5; 1 Cor. 4:7; Gal 2:20–21)
7. In what is the Christian's boast to be found? (Jer. 9:23–24; 2 Cor. 12:9–10; Gal. 6:14)
8. We most often think of sin as something that we do, but James makes it clear that not doing what is right is sin as well. (vs. 17) Ask the Spirit of God to reveal an area in your life where He has shown you what is right to do, but you have not followed through and done it. What "good" do you know you ought to do? Ask God to give you the grace to do it this week.

**Day 4: Read James 5:1—6.**

9. In the first 6 verses of chapter 5, James brings strong condemnation on the sinful attitudes and behaviors of the rich. List the misdeeds of the rich in these verses.
10. What commands of God were these rich people flagrantly disregarding? (Lev 19:13; Deut. 24:14–15; Matt. 22:36–39)
11. The rich thought that amassing wealth would result in security and happiness. In contrast James says that the rich are like animals being fattened in preparation for slaughter – content to eat their fill, oblivious to the disaster that awaits them. What is that disaster? (Prov. 28:20; 2 Cor. 5:10; Gal. 6:7–8)
12. What Day does the Christian know is coming that keeps him or her from succumbing to the temptation to abuse wealth? (Rev. 18:14–20; 22:12)

**Day 5: Read James 5:1—6.**

13. Apparently the rich assumed they could get away with their sinful actions. James makes it clear that this assumption was a delusion. Who heard the cries of the afflicted and why was this significant? (Ps. 34:6,15–18; Prov. 11:20–21; Heb. 10:30,31)
14. What do these verses teach about a godly perspective about wealth? (Matt. 6:19–24; 1 Tim. 6:6–10, 17–19; Jas. 2:5)
15. So what's so wrong with leading a life of self-indulgence? What does such a life miss? Meditate on Psalm 73.