

DEO VOLENTE

James 4:13-17 // December 7, 2025 PM

Only by reckoning with God's identity and our own can we rightly plan for the future.

I. Forsake a God-complex (vv. 13, 16).

II. Foster a God-consciousness (vv. 14-15).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. Why do Christian books on productivity call us to plan and set goals? Isn't that precisely what James is telling us not to do in our text?
2. What was wrong with what the wealthy merchants were saying in v. 13? What was missing in their future plans?
3. What is boasting? What does James rebuke us for boasting in? What should be boast in instead?
4. What does James tell us about ourselves, and how does this change the way we view and relate to the future?
5. What does James tell us about God, and how does this change the way we view and relate to the future?
6. Pastor Nick mentioned the Latin phrase "Deo Volente". What does it mean, and what does it look like to live in light of it?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Is my future planning prayerless or prayerful?
2. In what way(s) do I suffer from a God-complex, and how does James' teaching here reorient how I view myself and my calendar?
3. How does humility actually fuel a desire to seize upon the days and hours God gives me and to make the most of them? How are big aspirations and masterful plans not at odds with the downward disposition of a Godward self-perception?