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The Arrogance of Self-Sufficiency

James 4:13-17
March 5, 2017

I. The Arrogance of Not Seeking God's Counsel (v. 13)

A. Choosing your own _____

B. Choosing your own _____

C. Choosing your own _____

D. Choosing your own _____

E. Choosing your own _____

II. The Arrogance of Not Surrendering to God's Providence (v. 14)

A. You are ignorant of the _____

B. You are ignoring the _____ of life

III. The Arrogance of Not Submitting to God's Will (vv. 15-16)

A. Acknowledge that God is in _____ (v. 15)

B. Abandon all _____, except in the cross (v. 16)

IV. The Arrogance of Not Striving to Obey God's Directives (v. 17)

A. Do you _____ the right thing to do?

B. Are you _____ the right thing?

C. If not, you are in _____

TAKE HOME

- Have you been arrogant by _____ upon God?
- How can you learn to _____ in God instead of your own plans?
- Are you boasting in the right thing and _____ the right thing?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. Read James 4:13. What are some things you are tempted to do without seeking the Lord’s counsel? Read Lk. 14:28-32. Is it important to count the cost? How can you grow in this area?

2. Give some examples of where you need to be more careful in choosing your own time, location, duration, business, and goals. How can God help you heed this wisdom here in James 4:13?

3. Read James 4:14. What does this verse tell us? Read Lk. 12:16-21. What do we learn from this parable? How does this fit in with James 4:14?

4. Read Job 7:6, 9; 8:9; 9:25-26; 14:1-2. Which one of these verses is most helpful for you understanding the brevity of life? How do Psa. 90:10; 102:11; and Isa. 40:6-7 help you see this? Which one of these verses grabs your attention on this same subject?

5. Read James 4:15-16. How can you do a better job submitting to God’s will for the things you want to see happen in your life? What do you think about your boasting being evil?

6. Read James 4:17. How do you know the right thing to do? Are you doing it? Why or why not? What does James 1:22-25 add to this discussion?

7. Read the take home questions. Which one challenges you or encourages you the most? Why? How can you be less self-sufficient and more God-dependent after studying this text?

“We do not pray to God to instruct Him as to what He should do; neither for a moment must we presume to dictate the method of the divine working.”

- Charles Spurgeon