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LEAVING GOD OUT OF OUR PLANS

JAMES 4:13-17

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In living the Christian life, when are we to depend on **God**, and when are we to depend on our **own** understanding and use the good sense God gave us? Most of us would agree it's not either/or, but both/and.

Sometimes people ask **God** to do, what **He** expects **them** to do. They get completely carried away in their expectations of God. Our focus today, though, is on the opposite extreme. Some people get so carried away with their own intellect and abilities that they leave God out altogether. They don't depend on Him at all.

In many areas of life, we as Christians can be guilty of putting God out on the edge, rather than at the center. In our passage, James tells us some truths about life.

I. First, is the **PASSING** of Life.

A. Life is **BRIEF**.

What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. James 4:14

B. Life is **UNCERTAIN**.

You do not even know what will happen tomorrow. James 4:14

This is the day the Lord has made, we shall rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

II. Second, is the **PURPOSE** of Life.

You ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." James 4:15

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work." John 4:34

Why do so many people leave God out of their plans?

A. **FEAR**

B. **PRIDE**

III. Third, is the **PROMISE** of Life.

Whoever knows what is right to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. James 4:17

Have you put God, front and center, into your plans, and are you a part of His plans?

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What is God saying to me?

What am I going to do about it?