

Planning That Pleases

(James 4:13-17)

Sunday, January 7, 2024 AVBC 10:30 am

An intelligent person aims at wise action, but a fool starts off in many directions. (Proverbs 17:24) (GNT)

Zeal without knowledge is not good; a person who moves too quickly may go the wrong way. (Proverbs 19:2)

We don't just need _____ plans...we need _____ plans

Parameter 1- Our knowledge of the _____ is severely limited. (v.14)

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth. (Proverbs 27:1)

Parameter 2- Our _____ is very short. (v.14)

-Psalm 102:3; 144:3

The length of our days is seventy years— or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. (Psalm 90:10)

Parameter 3- God's plan will _____ . (v.15)

-I Corinthians 4:18-19

-Acts 18:20-21

For I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. (I Corinthians 16:7)

Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails. (Proverbs 19:21) (also Job 42:2)

There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God's sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials, they believe that sovereignty has ordained their afflictions, that sovereignty overrules them, and that sovereignty will sanctify them all. There is nothing for which the children of God ought to more earnestly contend to than the doctrine of their Master over all creation—the Kingship of God over all the works of His own hands—the Throne of God and His right to sit upon that throne...for it is God upon the Throne whom we trust. (C.H. Spurgeon)

Parameter 4- Planning that leaves _____ out is sinful boasting (v.16-17)

Invite _____ into _____ part of your planning

-Proverbs 16:1-3, 9,18-20

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:5,6)

DIGGING DEEPER

(For use in personal/family devotions or with your care group)

Q1: Do you have any specific plans for the coming year? If so, explain.

Q2: What is it about planning that you find exhilarating and/or frustrating?

Q3: Read Psalm 20. What does this teach you about planning?

Q4: The bible says that time passes quickly. What task do you sense the Lord wants you to do that may be time sensitive? What can you do to get that task completed?

Q5: Read Isaiah 40:6-15. What does this passage say to you about God's sovereignty? What verse(s) speak to you personally? How?

Q6: Is the sovereignty of God something that frees you or frustrates you? Explain.