

**Learning To Think Like God**  
**A study of the book of James**

**Sunday, February 4, 2018**

**Feeling Superior?**  
Then You Have Forgotten WHO is in Charge!  
*Part 2*

**James 4:13-17**

- I Am Doing This To Get Your Attention!
- *Now listen...I've got something important to say.*
  
- **James Wants Their Full Attention!** (13)
  - Now listen...
  - Look here...
  - Come now...
  - Now listen to me...
  - Go to now...
  - Go, now...
  
- **Are We in Control of Time?** (13)
  - *Some of YOU are saying,*
  - Today or Tomorrow
  
- **Can You Pass This Test?**
  - Can you stop the sun and the moon in the middle of the sky for a full day? (Joshua 10:12-14)
  - Can you add time to a dying man's life? (2Kings 20:2-6; Isaiah 38-1-4)
  - Can you make this claim? *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.* (Revelation 22:13)

- **Are We in Control of Travel Plans? (13)**
  - *Some of YOU are saying,*
  - *we will go to...*
  - *we are going to...*
  - *we shall go to...*
  - *we will travel to...*
  - *we will go into...*
  - *we will go on to...*
  
- **Matthew 2:13-15**
  - When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph *in a dream*. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." *So he got up*, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod.
  
- **Matthew 2:19-21**
  - After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared *in a dream* to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." *So he got up*, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.
  
- **Are We in Control of Talents/ Money? (13)**
  - They were willing to *move to any city* to make money (this or that city...no special place).
  - They were willing to *stay as long as it takes* to make money (or as long as they made money).
  - They were willing to *work as hard as they could* to make money.
  
- **We Are Not in Control! (14)**
  - ...of today, tomorrow, the next year, month, week, hour, minute, second, nothing!
  - We have NO knowledge about tomorrow.
  - Our life is a mist, vapor, morning fog, a puff of smoke.

- **Luke 12:13-21**

- Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he said to them, "*Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.*" And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "*This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.*"
- We are here right now and gone whenever God says so.

- **What Should We Say Instead? (15)**

- ... *"if it is the Lord's will, we will do, this or that"*. James 4:15
- [If the Lord will ...] This is proper, because we are wholly dependent on him for life, and as dependent on him for success. He alone can keep us, and he only can make our plans prosperous. In a thousand ways he can thwart our best-laid schemes, for all things are under his control. We need not travel far in life to see how completely all that we have is in the hands of God, or to learn how easily he can frustrate us if he pleases. There is nothing on which the success of our plans depends over which we have absolute control; there is nothing, therefore, on which we can base the assurance of success but his favor.
  - (from Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by BibleSoft)

- **What Were They Doing? Boasting and Bragging (16)**

- **BOAST**- to speak with exaggeration and excessive pride, esp. about oneself; brag.
- To speak of with excessive pride or vanity.
- **BOAST, BRAG** imply vocal self-praise or claims to superiority over others.
- **BOAST** usually refers to a particular ability, possession, etc., that may justify a good deal of pride.

- BRAG, a more informal term, usually suggests a more exaggerated boasting but less well-founded.
- ALL SUCH BOASTING IS EVIL!
  
- Conclusion
  - It is universally true that if a man knows what is right, and does not do it, he is guilty of sin.
  - The particular meaning then would be, *"that he who knows what sort of views he should take in regard to the future, and how he should form his plans in view of the uncertainty of life, and still does not do it, but goes on recklessly, forming his plans boastingly and confident of success, is guilty of sin against God."*
    - from Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by Biblesoft
  - Let's be honest
  - Why is it so difficult to give God control of everything in our lives?
  - Please share one thing that you personally would like to give up.
  - What do you feel would happen if you gave it away right now?
  - What person has God sent to help you through this problem?