

A Pandemic Survival Kit Sermon Series by Rev. Dr. John C. Tittle



SCRIPTURE: James 4:13-17 NLT

Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil. Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS – How to Deal with Uncertainty

1. What words or phrases jump out at you about the Scripture reading?
2. What plans have you had to cancel because of the pandemic?
3. Psychologists have found that there seems to be one common factor for anxiety of any kind: *uncertainty*. What uncertainties have you been wrestling with? Is it hard or easier to trust God in times of uncertainty?
4. James says that we are like the morning fog, vanishing vapor, or a puff of smoke. Why do you think he was reminding the church of this?
5. In what ways can uncertainty be a gift to us? What does it teach us?
6. What do you think of Mother Theresa's words that she would not pray for a person's clarity, but she would pray that they would trust in God?
7. How can we make God an important part of our planning for things like business, travel, faith, and life?
8. When do plans morph and become "pretentious plans?" Is James saying that it is wrong to have dreams, ambition, or business ventures? If not, what is he saying?
9. How do we go about doing the right thing? (v. 17)