

In the Mist of Life
James 4:13-17

*Carry Out Your Life's Plans in a Manner
That will Keep Eternity in Focus*



What is Your Life?

- **James 4:13-17** - ¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— ¹⁴ yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

3 Principles of Christian Time Management

1. How do you measure time? How does God Measure Time?
2. Expectations of the use of your time – Your Expectations vs God's Expectations
3. Final Accountability of Your Time – Used for Selfish Gain vs Used for Serving Jesus

Watch Your Step

- **Ephesians 5:15-17** - Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

How Do You Measure Time?

- **James 4:13** - ¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”

How Man Measures Time

- **Psalm 90:10** - The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

How God Measures Time

Psalm 90:2-4 - Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

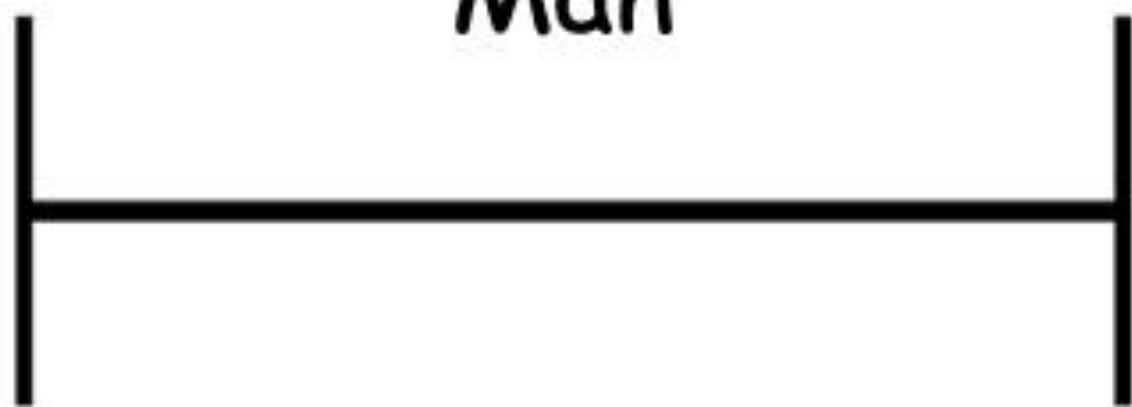
³ You return man to dust
and say, “Return, O children of man!”

⁴ For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.

2 Peter 3:8 - But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

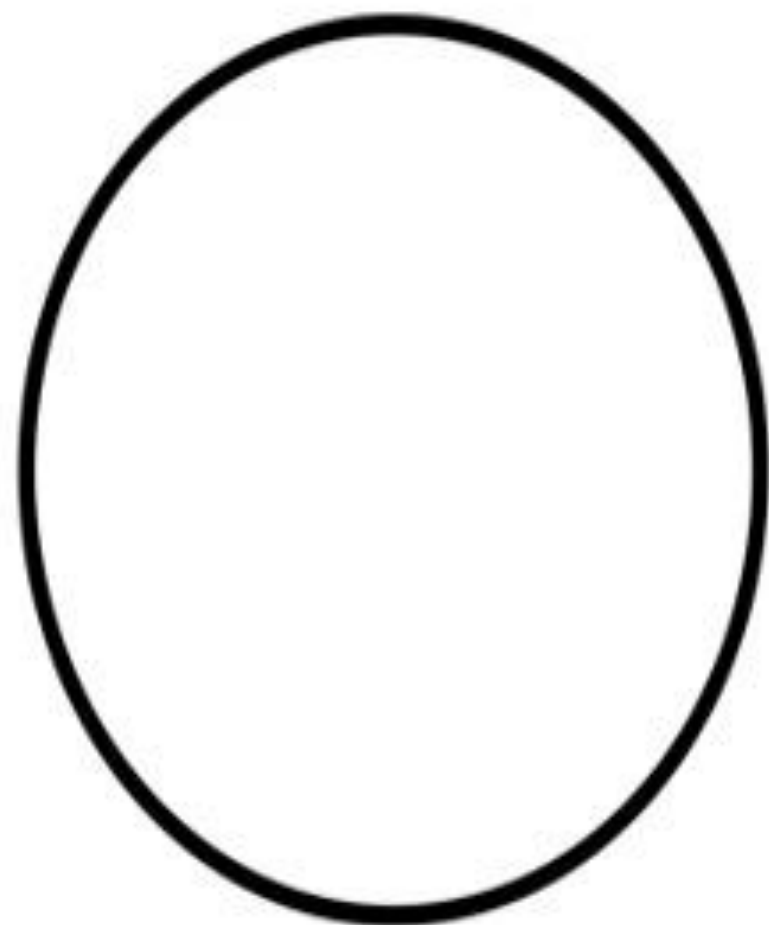
Time Measurement

Man



Linear Timeline

God



Eternity

Expectations and Use of Your Time

- **James 4:14-15** - yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”



Living With
PURPOSE

**I WILL PURSUE GOD'S
PURPOSE FOR MY LIFE**

Man Does Not Know His Time

- **Matthew 13:47-50** - ⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸ When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- **Ecclesiastes 9:12** - ¹² For man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like birds that are caught in a snare, so the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them.

Time Used for Selfish Gain

- **Proverbs 11:4** - Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.
- **Zephaniah 1:18** - Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the Lord.
In the fire of his jealousy,
all the earth shall be consumed;
for a full and sudden end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

No Other Gods

- **Exodus 20:3** - “You shall have no other gods before^l me.
- **Mark 12:29-30** - ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’
- **Jesus is first in your life – not wealth, power, or any other idol.**

Walk Humbly With the Lord

- **Micah 6:8** - He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Serve Others – Be the Example

- **Mark 12:31** - The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”
- **Mark 10:45** - For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- **Galatians 6:9-10** - ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- **Colossians 3:23-24** - ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Stand for Jesus – Share the Gospel

- **Mark 16:15-16** - ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
- **Matthew 10:32-33** - ³² So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Church Attendance and Participation

- **Hebrews 10:24-25** - ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Final Accountability of Time

- **James 4:16-17** - ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Final Accountability

- **Galatians 6:7-8** - ⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.
- **2 Corinthians 5:10** - ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.