

***The Pride of Presumption and the Will of God***  
**James 4:13-17**

I. Introduction

A. Living in the real world – Though we live in the same world, we are called to be different – holy!!!

II. Proposition

A. Defining the sin of presumption:

1. The sin of presumption is a great arrogance, for it is turning away from God and His will and assuming we control our own life and future.

III. Exposition

A. **It is an arrogant sin to live and plan your life without any regard for God, His will and His ways (4:13-14, 16).**

1. James 4:13 - Without any regard for God merchants decide when they will travel (today or tomorrow), where they will go (this or that city), how long they will be there (a year), what they will do (business), and the outcome of their affairs (profit).

2. Are we any different? Many Christians compartmentalize their lives, relegating God to one hour on Sunday morning and other church related special events, while living a secular life on Monday through Saturday.

a. ILLUS: Young couples who want to get married in a church but could care less about God's guidance regarding the marriage relationship.

1). Without consulting God, they decide whom they will marry (. . . but I really love him), when they will marry (. . . but we're not too young to get married), where they will live (we're already living together), what they will do (we're both going to work, excel at our careers, have 1.3 children, but only after we've been married five years) and predict the outcome of their lives (we'll live happily ever after).

2). They come to me at the point where they realize this dream has become a night mare.

b. ILLUS: A Christian businessperson who attends church on a Sunday morning but when he gets in the work place, he is prepared to do whatever it takes to make a profit.

1). Without consulting God, he decides what kind of business he'll be involved in (whichever makes the most money fast), what partner to take on (Christian or not), what kind of financial risk to take, and how well his business will do (we'll make millions).

c. ILLUS: WE do the same things today, don't we!?

1). Without regard for God, we decide to go to college, law school, medical school, business school, etc. in such a such a city, for a certain period of time, then we'll graduate, start working for the largest firm and make a certain amount of money and live like no one else!

2). OR without regard for God, we get a new or a better paying job and break down our paycheck thinking, we can afford this house and that nice car and that club membership, and these nice things, then we start living that lifestyle and find out we cant.

a). OR we find out this wasn't the dream job or we lose our job . . .

3. Two reasons why it is sheer arrogance to plan life without concern for God's will (4:14):

a. You don't know what tomorrow brings.

1). ILLUS: Prov 27:1 - "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth."

b. You don't know what your life will be; it is a vapor (Psalm 103:15-16).

4. James actually says that such boasting is evil (4:16).

a. God is opposed to the proud (4:6)!

1). Jeremiah 9:23-24 - we cannot boast about anything other than God!

**B. Instead, we are to live and plan our lives with a moment by moment, breath by breath dependence and trust in God, His will and His ways (4:14-15).**

1. This is, of course, what Scripture declares - Prov 3:5-8!
  - a. Matthew 10:6, Jesus taught His disciples to pray, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”
  - b. And, of course, Jesus did what He taught His disciples when in the Garden of Gethsemane.
    - 1). Matthew 26:36-44 – Jesus prayed three times for God’s will to be done!
2. We must come to the understanding that God has an overall plan and that we fit into that plan.
  - a. First and foremost, we are to live according to this overarching plan of God, His will!
  - b. Second, then, we seek to discern how our life fits into God’s plan.
    - 1). There is NO AREA of our lives that is outside of God’s guidance.
3. How do we live and plan our lives with regard to God’s will and ways?
  - a. Moment by moment dependence and trust in God.
    - 1). Recognize that time is in God’s hands and trust Him with it (4:14).
    - 2). You don’t know what tomorrow brings – tomorrow is a gift of grace.
  - b. Breath by breath dependence and trust in God.
    - 1). Recognize that your life is in God’s hands and trust Him with it (4:14b).
    - 2). “You don’t know what your life will be, for your life is a vapor!”
  - c. Saying, “If the Lord wills. . .” is not about words; its about perspective!

**C. Therefore, if you know what is right (the will of God) and don’t do it, to you it is sin (4:17).**

1. What would you do if God actually showed you His will?
  - a. With the apostle Paul, then, we ought to pray for one another that we would grow in the knowledge of God’s will so that we would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord - Col 1:9-10.
2. There are many areas where God has made His will perfectly clear (here are just a few):
  - a. That you be filled with joy and thankfulness – 1 Thessalonians 5:18
  - b. That you give liberally of your material resources - 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
  - c. That you submit to governing authorities - 1 Pet 2:13-15
  - d. That you pray for the lost – 1 Timothy 2:1-7
  - e. That you pursue holiness and live holy lives – 1 Thessalonians 4:1-4 (see 1-8)
3. Since you know the will of God, then, are you seeking to do it?
  - a. John 4:34 (ESV) “Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.”
4. Being satisfied with God – Genesis 2-3.

**IV. Conclusion**

- A. The warning for those who reject the will of God:
  1. Matthew 7:21 (ESV) “Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”
- B. The promise of God to those who do God’s will:
  1. 1 John 2:15-17 (ESV) “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

© 2007 High Pointe Baptist Church and Pastor Juan Sanchez - 12030 Dessau Rd, Austin Texas 78754

**Permissions:** You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided that you do *not* alter the wording in any way, you do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction, and you do not make more than 1,000 physical copies. For web posting, a link to this document on our website is preferred. Any exceptions to the above must be explicitly approved by High Pointe Baptist Church.

**Please include the following statement on any distributed copy:** By Juan Sanchez. © 2007 High Pointe Baptist Church. Website: <http://www.hpbcbglobal.org> Email: [info@hpbcbglobal.org](mailto:info@hpbcbglobal.org). Phone: 512.837.7725.