

## **BETTER LAID PLANS**

You have probably heard the idiom, “Best laid plans.” I remember this idiom suggesting that “Best Laid Plans” didn’t work out the way expected.

This is the way I am using it in the study of our lesson text.

(Jas.4:13-14)	best laid plan	Human will
(Jas.4:15)	better laid plan	God’s Will
(Jas.4:16-17)	boastful plan	Backfire when human will attempt to override God’s Will

**This lesson will study four aspects of a Better Laid Plan because it is based on the Directive Will of God.**

### **1. James 4:13-17 reminds the spiritually advancing believer that God’s Will is the Better Laid Plan for the Christian way of life.**

The argument against the “best laid plan” is the two obvious common-sense ideas stated in (Jas.4:14).

**1<sup>st</sup> – Unknown:** “Yet you **do not know** what your life will be like **tomorrow**.”

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Vapor:** “You are **just a vapor** that appears for a little while and **then vanishes away**” (Eccl.3:22; 11:5).

The vapor could be compared to the **hyphen on a tombstone**. The hyphen connects two related things (birth and death). The story of one’s entire life is contained in that hyphen. Therefore, chose what is important while living between **the unknown part of life** and the **vapor that vanishes**.

Know for certain that **one of those important things in life** is to believe the gospel of Jesus Christ for grace salvation (John3:16; 5:24; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph2:8-9).

Since it brings assurance to both the **unknown part of life** and when the **vapor vanishes** part when we step out of time into eternity with our Savior and God (1 Tim.4:10; 2 Tim.1:10; 2 Cor.5:6-8).

Without Christ as your Savior, your life will be just a hyphen (Ps.102:3). Whatever fame and fortune you have accumulated from the world, it will become dust of earth like the body. (1 John 2:15-17; Eccl.12:7).

### **2. The Greek word for life is zoe. It is used as a reference to the Christian way of life in time and eternity.**

(John 14:6) “Jesus said to him (Thomas), I am the way, and the truth, and **the life** (he zoe); **no one** comes to the Father but through Me.” (Luke12:19-21; 1 John 5:11-13)

- Time (John 10:10)

### **3. Joseph is one example of the doctrinal principle that God’s Plan and Will triumphs man’s plan and will. (John 11:25-26)**

His earthly father’s (Jacob) plan was to groom Joseph for a leadership position in family business (coat of many colors). But His heavenly Father’s Plan was to groom him for a position of spiritual leadership that would rescue two nations from devastating disaster (Egypt and Israel)

**This is James' point:**

(Jas.4:15) "Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall **live** and also **do this or that**."

For Joseph, "this and that" involved 13 years involving a plot to be murdered, thrown into a pit, sold into slavery, Potiphar's wife and prison! All before fulfilling The Father's Directive Will for Joseph.

James put the words "live" (zao) and "do" (poieo) in the future tense. He is contrasting the uncertainty of the best laid human plan (Jas.4:13-14) to the **certainty of the better laid Plan of God**.

(Rom.4:21) "And being **fully assured that what** He had promised, He was able to perform."

**4. James teaches that the better laid Plan of God goes from knowing, living, and doing the Will of God.**

(Jas.4:17a) "Therefore, to **one who knows** (oida/ perf.a.ptc.3ps) the right thing to do (poieo/ p.a.infin)."

Doing the Will of God from the heart (Eph.6:6) works by the following doctrinal formula:

**Knowledge of Categorical Bible Doctrine (Col.1:9-12)**

(+)

**Faith Cycle** (2 Cor.5:7)

(+)

**Spirituality** (Gal.5:16)

(=)

**Divine Production** (Eph.2:10; Titus 2:14)

**This is making the most of your time and opportunities.**

(Col.4:5) "Conduct yourselves with wisdom towards outsiders, making the most of the opportunities."

(Eph.5:15-17) "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, **making the most of your time**, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is."

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

(Ps.90:12) "So teach us to number our days (21,170 days/ journal), **that we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom**."

(Lam.3:22-23) "The Lord's loving kindnesses indeed **never cease**, for His compassions **never fail**. **They are new every morning**: Great is Thy faithfulness."