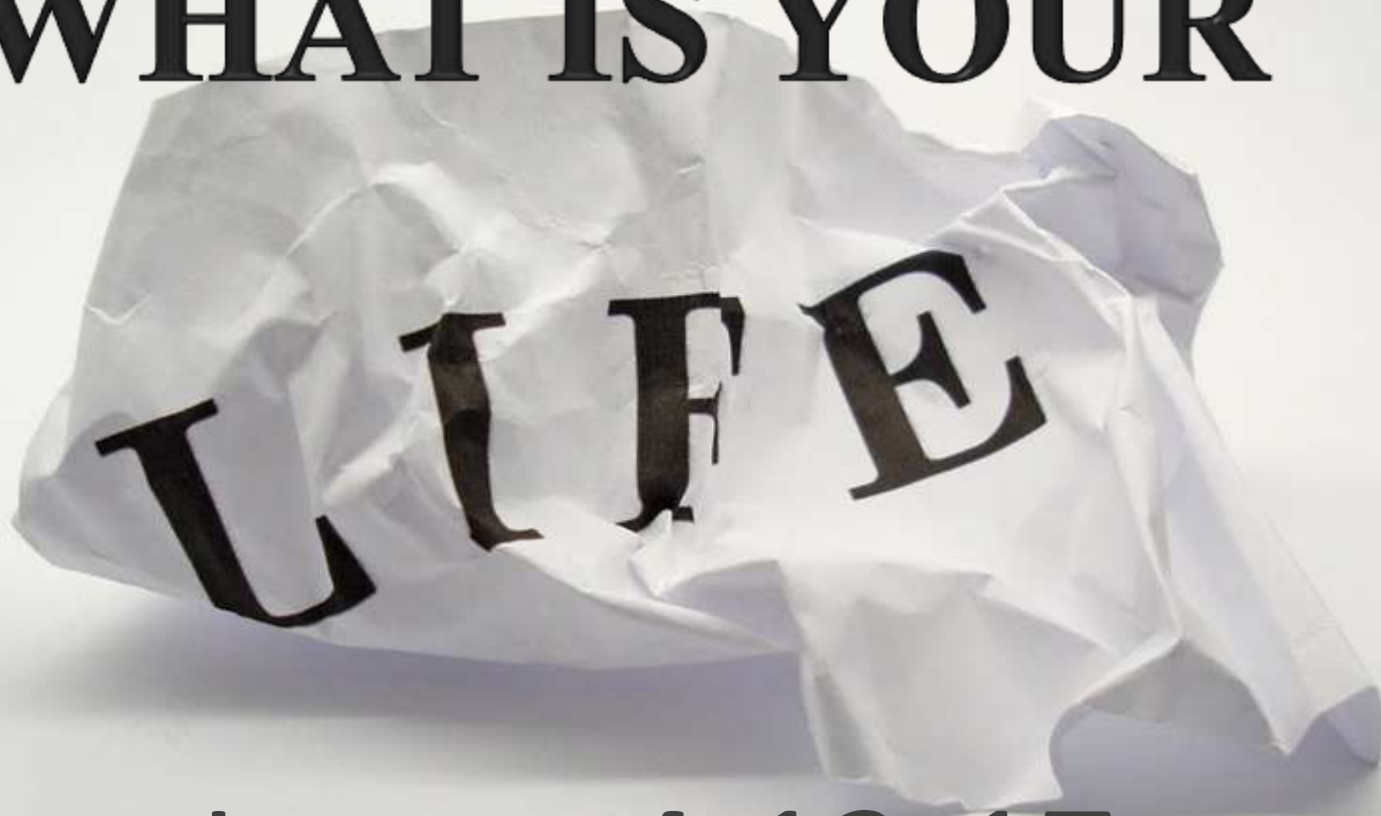


WHAT IS YOUR



James 4:13-17

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE



Background

- James is addressing Christian traders
- It is possible that James was addressing a common issue in the early Church
- This passage is instructional, practical, and timely for us

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE

How the world views meaning

- Wealth
- Acclaim/popularity
- For athletes, amount of trophies
- PhD. How published there are
- Contributions to society

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE



3 insights to what our life is

1. Your life is uncertain

- This doesn't advocate not planning
- The sin is found in boasting about your plans
- We overestimate our own ability

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE

James 4:13-17

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE



3 insights to what our life is

1. Your life is uncertain

2. Your life is brief

- This can feel depressing
- Our culture values knowing the “meaning of your life”
- Life's brevity should cause intentionality not sadness.

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE

3 insights to what our life is

1. Your life is uncertain
2. Your life is brief
3. Your life is not yours

- *“What is your Life? For you are but a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live, and do this or that.” As it is you boast in your arrogance.”*
- Communicates dependence on God’s will and plan

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE

Matthew 16:25-27 *“For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.”*

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE

3 insights to what our life is

1. Your life is uncertain
2. Your life is brief
3. Your life is not yours
 - Our lives are to be surrendered and submitted to the will of the God

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE

Two Myths about God's will

1. "If the Lord wills" has been used to justify a lazy relationship with Jesus
2. We can also view God's will something that prevents us from living purposeful, joyful lives.

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE



WHAT IS YOUR LIFE!?

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE

- This passage pulls from Ecclesiastes
- It was written by a King of Israel
- The point was that everything is meaningless apart from God
- Author makes a plea to orient themselves around God.

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE

In this Ecclesiastes and in our Passage the question “What is your life” is answered

- Our lives only find meaning when they are centered on God and his will
- This is what provides maximum fulfillment

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE

3 options for us

Will you **DISOBEY** God's will

Will you **IGNORE** God's will

Will you **SUBMIT** to God's will