

Ancient Wisdom for Modern-Day Times

Who is in Control?

Week 9: May 5, 2024

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. (James 4:13-17)

When we are in control, we are planning without God.

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. (James 4:13-14)

When we are in control, we are planning for a temporary life.

What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. (James 4:14)

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matthew 6:19-20)

Perhaps you were born for a time such as this. (Esther 4:14)

When God is in control, He will show you the best path forward.

Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:15)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:18-19)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do we tend to not acknowledge God in our planning?
2. What do you think can happen if we seek God before we make important decisions?
3. What are some signs of a God-dependent plan?
4. How can you lean on God with your decisions this week?

News and Notes:

75th Anniversary Banquet tickets are available TODAY. Register at back table.

Mentoring Moments with Pastor Andy Tuesdays from 11am-noon. Blue House Basement.

Sr. Highs + Young Adults are away on a camping trip from May 10-11. Pray for spiritual encounters.

The next Preteens + Jr. High event is on Friday, May 24. Talk to Pastor Vincent for details.

Services, events, ministries, programs, and small groups are online at www.vcpc.ca.