



## COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS FAITH ALIVE - A STUDY OF JAMES

### THANKING GOD FOR OUR TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE - JAMES 4:13-5:6

#### **Focus**

In order to bring us to a place of true repentance and increased wisdom, James drives home the point that all of life is under the sovereign control of God and is to be lived humbly before Him.

#### **Opening Question**

Can you think of examples of what some have called 'functional atheism'? (This is the idea that even if a person professes to believe in God, the way this person functions in his everyday life is as if God doesn't exist.)

#### **Read**

James 4:13-5:6

#### **Some Questions for Reflection**

Describe the person addressed in verse 13.

According to verse 14, what is the mistake this person is making?

Verse 15 provides a contrary attitude to the way we approach our plans. What is it? (Do you think this means someone always needs to say the words, "if the Lord wills" – why or why not?)



What further insight does verse 16 give to the mistake being addressed in this section?

Verse 17 is addressing not just the sins we actively commit, but the sins of omission. That is, those things we ought to do but haven't done. Why is this a significant category of sin and how does it relate to this passage?

Who do you think James is addressing in 5:1-6? Are they Christians? If not, why might this section be in James' letter?

What are the accusations being made against those in 5:1-6?

What does James say will happen to them because of their actions?

### ***Applying the Text***

The larger context of James is that of true wisdom (see 3:13-18). How does this passage fit within that context?

If wisdom is particularly related to having and living in light of a right understanding of ourselves before God, what does this passage teach us? What wisdom have you gleaned from this passage?

How can planning for the future be wise? How can it become sinful? What's the difference?



How does greed blind us to spiritual realities? Where have you seen this show up in your own life?

In what ways do you struggle to remember that you're fully dependent on God? How can you increase your humility before Him and your gratitude towards Him?

How does this passage accentuate the gospel, and how should the gospel be applied to our lives in light of this passage?