

Plans for the New Year

James 4:13-15

Introduction:

- A. Planning ahead is not condemned, but planning without God is.
- B. What are your plans for the new year?
 - 1. To improve your financial situation?
 - a. Work harder?
 - b. Save more?
 - c. Pay off debts?
 - 2. To relax and play more?
 - 3. To get married?
- C. I suggest let's keep our New Years plans and resolutions simple this year:

Discussion:

I. Resolve to Better *Know* God's Will.

- A. Ignorance is not bliss! (Acts 17:30)
 - 1. Ill: "Lord has his work cut out for him"
 - 2. Brings destruction (Hos. 4:6)
 - 3. Establishes one's own righteousness (Rom. 10:1-4).
 - 4. Can bring about persecution, etc. (1 Tim. 1:13).
 - 5. Crucified Jesus (Acts 3:17).
- B. Knowledge is accessible.
 - 1. Through the written word (Eph. 3:3-7)
 - 2. Read, search, and study (1 Tim. 4:13; Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 2:15)
 - 3. Home study, Class study, Sermon studies.

II. Resolve to Better *Do* God's Will.

- A. Knowing and Doing are interrelated (v. 17; John 7:17; 8:31, 32; Heb. 5:12-14)
- B. Doing God's will for you:
 - 1. As an alien sinner (Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 2:38).
 - 2. As an erring brother (Jas. 5:19, 20; Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9)
 - 3. As a faithful Christian and church member.
 - 4. In the home, business, community, etc.
- C. Being conscious of God's will in all our plans (v. 15).
 - 1. Determine to do God's will in all of your actions.
 - 2. Determine to accept God's will in all of his providence.

Conclusion:

- A. Have you been trying to go it alone?
- B. Why not include God's will in your plans from now on?