

“Life is Short, Live it Up?”

James 4:13-17

Today's BIG IDEA:

The spiritually mature, recognize that all that they are and all that they have is a gift from God and use it for His glory.

Context:

Vs. 4:13-17 written to the wealthy merchant class within the scattered church.

- **Those with financial flexibility to:**
 - Relocate to pursue opportunity
 - Skills/Resources to pursue financial gain
 - Not living meal to meal
- **Ours status**
 - Avg American income 10x higher than Avg Income of rest of the world
 - Most Americans are comfortably in the top 10% of the world's wealthiest citizens.

This passage applies to _____

1. The worldly say “Life is short, live it up!”

- A. They make plans for their own _____ (v. 13)
- B. They make plans as though _____ control the future (v.15)
- c. They make plans as though their future depends on their own _____ . Vs 16

They are foolish not because they plan, but rather because they plan selfishly and without acknowledgment and submission to their creator.

2. The believer should say: “Life is short, live it UP^!”

- A. We should recognize that God is the _____ of our abilities and resources
- B. We should recognize that God _____ the future
- C. We should recognize that we have a calling to live our lives for _____

The believer demonstrates wisdom in recognizing God as the source of our abilities, resources, and opportunities and using them for His glory and Kingdom gain.

3. When we live this life for ourselves and not for His glory, we are living in sin (v. 17)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. When you consider the abilities, resources, and opportunities at your disposal, do you think of these as a result of what you have done and therefore see them as available for your own self-gain and glorification, or do you recognize God as the giver and therefore ultimate owner and submit them to Him for His glory?
2. How should the fact that this life is short, especially in light of eternity impact the way that you plan and live your life?
3. What would it look like if all believers would put their abilities, resources, and opportunities to work for God's glory and Kingdom? What would it look like for you and your family to take this step?