

Leave God Out OR Bring Him In?

It is not always easy to separate planning for the future from leaving God out of our plans. They look so similar. In James 4, God gives us the direction we need to stop leaving God out of our lives.

Scripture(s): James 4:13-17

I. The first antidote to the arrogance that shows itself by taking the future for granted is to remember what we _____ are. It is in the certainty of our planning that our misunderstanding about our _____ in our personal universe shows.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

Isaiah 46:9-10 9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure':

✓ Keep in your mind that we are just a _____.

II. The second antidote to the arrogance that shows itself by taking the future for granted is to place the future in _____ hands. There is a true option to doing and planning by ourselves: leaning on the _____ of God.

✓ Accept that it is only through the Lord's will that _____ happens.

III. The third antidote to the arrogance that shows itself by taking the future for granted is to acknowledge that such presumption is a real _____. Leaving God out of our planning and purposes is _____.

Proverbs 27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

Romans 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

✓ Accept that taking the future for granted is essentially planning a life _____ from God.

IV. The fourth antidote to the arrogance that shows itself by taking the future for granted is to do the _____ thing. When we know that God planning our steps is a genuine good, rejoicing in God's planning _____ be our _____.

Jeremiah 10:23-24 23 I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps. 24 Correct me, O LORD, but with justice; Not with Your anger, or You will bring me to nothing.

✓ Make your plans as matters of _____ rather than merely decisions of pragmatism.

Remember this - To give God our future means we have to be humble with our planning _____.

Our challenge: Bring God into your _____ life decision making process.

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"How Great Is Our God"

"Standing on the Promises" 335

"Speak to My Heart" 281

* Pastoral Prayer & Children's Sermon *

"Change My Heart, O God"