

Our Spot in Eternity
James 4:13-16
March 12, 2005

Introduction

- Perspectives – Its all about your perspective
 - Small child in a room of adults
 - Spectator at a stadium event
 - A teenager’s view of the “real world”
 - A fish’s view of the land
- How we view things depends on our perspective
- Pure objectivity is difficult.
 - Requires us to put on a different set of glasses
 - Requires us to forget limitations
 - Requires us to think from someone else’s view
 - Requires us to put on a different pair of glasses
- Continue study of James
- Today’s teaching asks us to take a different perspective.
- This change is required of all believers.
- And it has to do with our perspective towards our place in time.

I. Our Spot in Eternity v. 13-14

- This is a crucial point in our Christian walk.
- It’s the primary reason for our need of grace
- It’s the primary reason for our consistent failure as Christians
- We simply don’t understand our place in eternity.
- We make decisions based on a lifetime...earthly
- We say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this city or that city...”
- TWO LESSONS HERE:
 1. Tomorrow is not even guaranteed:
 - Does this mean we shouldn’t plan ahead?
 - We need to keep in mind the ways of God
 - We need to remember that it is his will we follow

2. We are just a quick mist

- Universal Studios – standing in line (misters)
 - The mist is nice when its there, but just not enough
 - Have to know the purpose of the mist: Make things bareable til you reach the front of the line
 - Our life on earth is just a mist in realm of etnernity
- We need a better grasp on what eternity it is
 - We need to seek a deeper understanding of it

II. God’s View v. Our View v. 15

- When we give our lives fully to God, we understand that our lives were bought with a price.
- Jesus gave His life so we could be God’s children.
- There are many benefits to being a child of God.
- We’re offered protection
- We’re offered peace
- We’re offered eternity in a place of perfection
- But when Jesus paid the price we became his property.
- Not like a slave, but out of love
- What we do on this earth has to have that perspective
- God loves us so much...he shows us a better way
- Our lives should be lived according to His way.

Does that mean we don’t go on living?

- I don’t think so.
- I have a hard time believing that He doesn’t want us to enjoy this place He created. Fun does not = sin.
- We have to be careful though...because...just because its here doesn’t mean He ordained it or that He supports it.
- That’s the good and the bad of His love.
- He desires our love and obedience, but he won’t force it.

III. We Follow God's Plan v. 17

- If you know what your supposed to do, and you don't do it...sin
- Realizing our spot in eternity means knowing this isn't all there is
- I've seen this explained many ways.
 - Eternity = all beaches of world, our life = 1 grain of sand
 - Eternity = all forests of world, our life = 1 leaf or needle

Conclusion

- I started out by talking about perspectives.
- As believers we continually need to learn how to better put our lives into perspective, when thinking about eternity.
- We need to realize that life on earth is just a mist....
- Its short when compared to eternity
- If get too caught up on the current period...we run a risk..
 - Risk of living for self-pleasure
 - Risk of being unprepared for eternity
 - Risk of missing the bigger picture