

THE FACTS OF LIFE
SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

JAMES 4:13-17 (GW)

James asks a question that invites many different answers. To these, it's about gaining wealth and achieving success. To the intellectual, it's about learning and gaining knowledge. To some, it's about gaining personal happiness. To others, it's about having a good time. Then there are those that struggle to know the meaning of life.

James gives an odd answer. Life is a vapor that appears and vanishes. In other words, life touches two realms, the visible and the invisible. The visible is but for a moment, while the invisible is eternal. Therefore, don't leave the will of God out of your plans. To do so is presumptuous and prideful. To do so indicates one may not understand the facts of life.

In today's lesson we will consider the facts of life from a biblical perspective. To help, us understand the meaning of life and motivate us to live our lives with eternity in mind.

1. LIFE IS BRIEF.

- A. Methuselah lived 969 years. He's been gone over 4,000 years.
- B. **LUKE 20:27-38** – These Sadducees concocted a hypothetical question to see if Jesus believed in life after death. Methuselah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses are still alive.
- C. **MATTHEW 17:1-3** – Moses was invisible for 2,000 years before this.
- D. **GENESIS 2:15-17, DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20** – We are all eternal spirit beings that will never cease to exist. Life on earth is our time to prove to God what we will do with our free will.
- E. **2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-2** – Now is the time, not tomorrow.

2. DEATH IS CERTAIN. HEBREWS 9:27a

- A. There's a tendency to live life as if we will live here forever. An 85 year old man applied for a 30 year loan.
- B. **ECCLESIASTES 7:1-2** – All men die, and death is no respecter of education, wealth, social status, gender, race or political preference. Death is the great equalizer.
LUKE 16:19-31

3. JUDGMENT IS SURE. HEBREWS 9:27b

- A. Believers. **2 CORINTHIANS 5:10** - BEMA.
- B. Nonbelievers. **REVELATION 20:10-15** – Great White Throne.
- C. Judgment will be just. **ROMANS 2:5-11**
- D. Judgment is based on God's Word. **JOHN 12:47-48**

4. ETERNITY IS LONG. JOHN 5:25-30

- A. Eternity is timeless. **MARK 9:43-50**
- B. In eternity there are no clocks, only the certainty of forever.

5. PREPARATION IS NECESSARY. MATTHEW 7:13-14

- A. Is everyone in a better place?
- B. Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people. **JOHN 14:1-6**
- C. Preparation is individual. **PHILIPPIANS 2:12, MATTHEW 16:24-27**
- D. We must be born again. **JOHN 3:1-7**

CONCLUSION:

LIFE IS BRIEF, DEATH IS CERTAIN, JUDGMENT IS SURE, ETERNITY IS LONG AND PREPARATION IS NECESSARY. These are the great facts of life. It's up to us as to what we will do with them. We can accept or ignore them. The choice is ours.