

Let's play a game!

What number  
am I thinking of?  
(between  
1 and 1000)

2

What word am I  
thinking of?  
(starts with 's')

**Supralapsarianism**

What item do I  
have in the bag?

**Door knob**

# What do you think?

- How did you do in the game?
- What would make this game easier?
- How is this like life?





# FAITH AT WORK

A STUDY OF JAMES

JAMES 2:26

# Context of James

- Tests reveal what we know/believe
- God uses tests to mature us
- We should welcome the tests and grow from them



# Review

- Friendship with the world is hostility toward God
  - Looking to the world system rather than God to satisfy your pleasures



# Review

- Whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God
- Humble yourself and submit to God
  - God gives a greater grace



*Faith and Plans/Profits*  
James 4:13-5:6



# James 4:13-17

- Example of friendship with the world:
  - Test #5: Are you presumptuous in your planning?
    - Earthly or Godly wisdom?
    - Pleasures or consistent faith?

# James 4:13-17

1. Problem (13)
2. Perspective (14)
3. Priorities (16)
4. Pretensions (16)
5. Prevention (15)
6. Principle (17)

# 1. The Problem (13)

- The problem is NOT:
  - Planning for the future
    - Prov. 13:22; 16:3; 20:18; 21:5
  - Engaging in business
    - Acts 18:1-3; 2 Thess. 3:6-15;  
Prov. 31:24



# 1. The Problem (13)

- The problem is NOT:
  - Making a profit
    - Prov. 31:16; Eph. 4:28; Matt. 25:14-30
  - Being rich
    - 1 Tim. 6:17-19 (however: 7-10)

# 1. The Problem (13)

- The problem is *Practical Atheism*
  - Living as though there is no God
  - Earthly wisdom (3:14-16; 4:1-4)
  - Inconsistent with faith
  - So speak and so act [do]... (2:12)

## 2. Perspective (14)

- You can't say what you will do tomorrow because you can't see tomorrow
  - Luke 12:13-34

# Godly Wisdom

- Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth. (Prov. 27:1)



## 2. Perspective (14)

- You are just a vapor that vanishes
  - Life is short!
  - Flowering grass - 1:10-11 (Job 14:1-2; Ps. 102:11; 103:15)
  - Weaver's shuttle, breath, shadow*



### 3. Priorities (16)

- The point of life is not to do business and make a profit
  - The focus of their boasting
- Point is to glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31)
  - Even in business / making a profit

## 4. Pretentions (16)

- You boast
  - to glory or exult*
  - both good and bad
    - Gal. 6:14; Eph. 2:9

## 4. Pretentions (16)

- You boast in your arrogance
  - *Sin against truth*
  - Claiming to be what you are not, or to have what you do not have (e.g. - *snake-oil salesman*)

## 4. Pretentions (16)

- You boast in your arrogance
  - Ungodly, worldly attitude
  - Not submissive, not humble
  - All such boasting is evil
    - *Morally wicked; pernicious*



## 5. Prevention (15)

- “If the Lord wills”
  - Submit to God (7)
  - We will live (*continue to be alive*)
  - And do this and that (in submission and active dependence on Him)



## 5. Prevention (15)

- “If the Lord wills”
  - Submit to God (7)
  - Acts 18:18-21; Rom. 1:10; 15:32; 1 Cor. 4:19; 16:7

## 6. Principle (17)

- Knowing – Doing = Sinning
  - Right – *morally excellent, virtuous, praiseworthy*
  - The right thing: submitting our future plans to God's will

## 6. Principle (17)

- Knowing – Doing = Sinning
  - Be doers (1:22-25)
  - So speak and so act [do]... (2:12)
  - Knowledge + Ability = Obligation
    - Luke 12:47-48; 2 Pet. 2:20-22

# So What?

- Does God factor into your planning?
  - Not: “God, I *really* want this so please make it happen.”
  - Rather: “God, here are my ideas; what would you have me do?”



# So What?

- Does God's glory affect your choices?
  - Just because it 'works out' doesn't mean it is best
    - Jonah 1:1-3; 1 Cor. 10:31



# So What?

- Does God's Word affect your choices?
  - Just because it 'works' doesn't mean it is right
    - Jer. 44; Phil. 1:9-11

# So What?

- We can deceive ourselves
  - All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the Lord weighs the motives. (Prov. 16:2)

# So What?

- We should seek Godly counsel
  - Without consultation, plans are frustrated, But with many counselors they succeed.  
(Prov. 15:22)

# So What?

- We are not in charge
  - The mind of man plans his way,  
But the Lord directs his steps  
(Prov. 16:9)
  - Acknowledge God (Prov. 3:6)