

12-5-21 Message
THE EVIDENCE YOU LACK CHRIST'S LORDSHIP IN YOUR LIFE

We are coming to the end of another year. This past year has come and gone all so quick. A great text to consider for the end of this year and the beginning of the new is James 4:13-17

James 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what [shall be] on the morrow. For what [is] your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

James 4:15 For that ye [ought] to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

James 4:16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth [it] not, to him it is sin.

James 4:13 gives somewhat of a rebuke to those who make plans for the future apart from seeking God's direction and will.

It is just natural that as we close out one year and enter a new year we try to make plans for the future. But in these plans it is good to remember:

I Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

I Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Jesus owns you, Jesus bought you, you are not your own, you are His and when you do with your life what you want, it is no different than you going over to another man's vehicle and hijacking it, and driving it, and using it like it is your own. It would be no different than you going to some dock at some Yacht club at the lake and jumping into a cabin cruiser, and deciding you are going to take it out for a pleasure ride for the weekend. You are God's vessel or ship. I would be like a soldier who is on the battle field, just deciding to go home for the weekend.

Jesus bought you, he owns you. HE IS YOUR LORD... He is the captain of your soul, and no one else not even yourself makes crucial decisions in your life.

Oh if only Christians would believe that! I fear most do not. We have a lot of wall soldiers for Christ. A lot of hi-jacked vessels and missing property of the Lord! He bought you but he was never given the keys. Who buys something and never takes possession of it? If he does not have possession of you, are you bought with a price.. or are you on your own?

WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE YOU LACK CHRIST'S LORDSHIP IN YOUR LIFE

I. YOU MAKE PLANS WITHOUT SEEKING THE MIND OF THE LORD

Get rid of all secular thinking..

James 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

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James 4:15 For that ye [ought] to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

Amazing how we think there is a secular world and a sacred world..

Most people X God out of their lives when it comes to business and their "SECULAR LIVES" and even for the most part their personal lives.

Years ago we had ownership of the Old Elkdale Baptist Church Building. We were having problems with Kids breaking into the church and partying in there. So for the sake of liability, we decided we should just sell it. When we did, we found a clause in the deed that the building was not to be sold or converted over to secular use with the forfeiture of the property to the original heirs. We contacted one family that we thought were the heirs and they denied they were the heirs. This was before we sold the property.

We tried to find any other heirs and to no use, so when we found a buyer, we went ahead and advertised that we were selling the property in the news paper seeking a quick claim deed sale. Suddenly the heirs we had contacted years precious come forward and made a claim. Apparently when we approached them the first time, they thought it was going to cost them money but this time they thought they would make money and come forward. So we had to split the price of the land with the heirs.

When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour you had over to him the deed of your soul and life. He purchased you on the cross. Are you purchased or are you no? I could ask are you saved or are you not? If you are his he promises to receive you into his abode in eternity. However, here on earth you are to serve him and be his representative and a witness of him until then. Now everyone wants the heaven part, but why is it so many do not want the service part on earth!

God has a clause in your deed.. YOU ARE NOT TO BE SOLD OVER FOR SECULAR USE!

Secular means without God. There should be a no secular use in your life..

Too many people have a dichotomy of their church life and their work life.. family life.. friends.. school.. life..

For the average person when they walk out of the church they leave God in the church.. and they go on..

Fellow making plans to do a business transaction.. we will go into such and such a city buy get gain.

Foolish rich man

Luke 12:16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

Luke 12:17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

Luke 12:18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

Luke 12:19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, [and] be merry.

Luke 12:20 But God said unto him, [Thou] fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Luke 12:21 So [is] he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

When you pray about everything it might slow you down..

But maybe that is exactly what God wants us to do in this life..

Go to ye that say.. We will do this or that... DID YOU PRAY ABOUT IT?

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

IF THE LORD WILLS.. WE WILL DO THIS OR THAT..

When it comes to the Lord's will there are two possibilities.. Once you know the will of the Lord it is only a matter of obedience to DO IT! But how do you know it?

- 1. THERE IS HIS REVEALED WILL..**
- 2. THERE IS HIS PROVIDENTIAL WILL..**

In either case we need to submit to it!

- 1. CONSIDER THE REVEALED WILL OF GOD..**
- A. *It is found in the word of God.. This is an objective way to know the will of the Lord.. it is the same for everyone!***

You don't have to wonder about it.. even pray about it.. if the Bible reveals it to be so do it and obey it.

In fact this should be our heart beat our quest our desire to search the Scriptures to learn of him .. to learn his revealed will...

I Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

This is why being under preaching is so important..

We are commanded to be taught all things that are in Scripture..

Do you avail yourself of that...

We have on line services.. I do not see everybody on line.. I can see who is on line and who is not.. I guess some people could say it is hard for them to make it out Sunday Night and Wednesday night..

It is best to come to church .. but if you can't make it at least you could dial in..

The problem is people do no have a desire.. for the word. and therefore do not really have a desire to know the will of God.

B. *GOD's revealed will can also be known by your subjection to God ordained authority..*

God can reveal his will through your God given authority. God may make his will known through the ones he has placed over you!

a. *Parental Authority:*

Colossians 3:20 Children, obey [your] parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

I remember Carlton Lewis telling the story about when he was a teenager and his high school teacher wanted to take the students on a class outing. Carlton's mom and dad, told him they did not believe that God wanted him to go. He obeyed his parents and that teacher and students got in a bad car accident and many of them died..

Ephesians 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

Ephesians 6:3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

b. *Pastoral Authority*

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that [is] unprofitable for you.

It amazes me to see how many mistakes people make that could be averted if they just sought my counsel. Sometimes I do not know.. but many times I do. Simply because I know the Bible. Yet people do not ask because they do not want to know.

c. Other human authorities.. as long as they do not contradict Scripture..

Wife – husband I Peter 3:1

Government .. Romans 13

Employer Employee.. Colossians 3:22

Colossians 3:22 Servants, obey in all things [your] masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

Christians should not have a rebellious seditious spirit
A trouble maker, rebel.. contentious person.

2. CONSIDER GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL WILL..

James 4:15 For that ye [ought] to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

God is involved in everything in your life, and we all would do well to believe it is God who is opening, and closing doors. It is God that is leading and directing, and in everything we should be asking God for direction.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The Holy Spirit is the one that directs in many matters. But the Holy Spirit is not a Spirit of confusion.

I Corinthians 14:33 For God is not [the author] of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

I see people saying they are being directed of the Holy Spirit and I just shake my head and wonder if many times we make God out to be a flake.

The same God who made this universe is the same God who did so through his spirit. His spirit spoke and all things came into existence. God's spirit is the one that determined that 2+2 equals 4. Our God does not go against reason, his spirit at times transcends our reason but his will in retrospect was reasonable.

God is consistent..	His will is consistent..
God is invariable..	His will is invariable.
Our God is a God of order..	His will proceeds from order and makes sense..

Just as you can see the finger of creative design and genius in the creation and the universe so too you will see it in God's will

The reason I have been in this church for close to 40 years is because I know God has lead me here, and I never received orders from God to leave.

There were a few times other churches wanted me to come and leave the Elkdale Baptist Church. Just because the church is bigger, or the fields seem larger does not mean it is the will of God. In each case I prayed about it and did not see how God was leading.

In fact one time I even asked the men of the Church to pray about it. If it is the will of God I believe others will see it. Again the more I prayed, the more it became obvious to me that God was not in it and he wanted me to stay right here.

Sometimes, I see people who say they are being led by God into a ministry and I shake my head and wonder if God is flakey.

I have seen pastors where every Monday they are thinking about leaving their church. I often wonder, why people would want to go to a church where the Pastor himself does not want to be there?

I am happy to be here.. I will not brow beat you to be here.. I will not scold people for not being here. I enjoy being here! If you don't want to be here, don't come.

If you don't want to know God's will this is not the place to be..
If you don't want to learn God's Word, better not come here..
If you don't want to worship God, this is not the place to be..
If you don't love Christ you will not want to be in this place..
If you are happy with the devil's world and people you will be uncomfortable here..

If you are not hungry for righteousness.. stay away from this place..

But if you love Christ..	Come..
If you love God's word..	Come and learn..
If you want to live for God..	Come join us on this journey....

If two people show up that is a big enough crowd for me..
If 20 people are here that is great..
If 100 people are here that is wonderful..
If 1000 people are here.. I will not change.. my goal is the same.. I'll not change my message or my methods of service for God!

Our God is not a flake..
His spirit is not capricious..
His will makes sense..
He is a God of order and his spirit is the same.

This is why the qualifications for a bishop should be determined by the stability of his family. If he did not create stability in his home, how can he create stability in the church!

WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE YOU LACK CHRIST'S LORDSHIP IN YOUR LIFE

II. YOU WILL LIVE YOUR LIFE INDEPENDENT OF THE LORD

James 4:16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

To say you can do anything without God's blessing is to boast..

The World.. magnifies men... and lessens God..

Even Wikipedia makes mention of the superman curse almost everyone intricately involved with the movies seems to get a curse..

George Reeves, who starred in Adventures of Superman on television from 1952 to 1958, and died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound at age 45; and Christopher Reeve, the portrayer of the superhero in four theatrical films from 1978 to 1987, who was paralyzed in a 1995 horseback riding accident, and died nine years later at age 52 from heart failure.

How ironic.. that the men most famous for playing the role of superman were plagued with a curse.. In fact these are not the only ones.. Wikipedia gives a big long list..

In real life there are no real supermen!
Who are we to boast??!

What can we do without God?!!

Can we breath?
Can we keep our hearts beating?
Can we control our blood pressure?
Can we speak? Our ability to speak even comes from God!

Why is it that all through the world music is notated read and played the same.. but our languages vary? The reason why is because God ordained it at the tower of Babel. God is the one ordering this world and the details of it.

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III. WE DO NOT INCLUDE GOD IN ALL OUR PLANS

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James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth [it] not, to him it is sin.

This is what it really means when we say Lord willing..

We are saying without him all our plans are contingent..

We do not know from day to day what is going to happen..

We should say if the Lord wills we will do this or that.. and live..

I would hate to be certain doctors who deal with terminal people.. it is always their fault when a person doesn't get better.

No wonder they want so much money but they are worth so little.

I remember old Ed Latwinsky lamenting, when the doctors could not fix him. I had to tell him that his body is not like an automobile where you can just go out and buy new parts. God alone keeps it going and he said we are going to die and we are going to die.

The other day I was working under a piano and the client noticed all the bending and lifting I was doing. She said, how long do you think you will be able to do this. I guess she realized I was getting older.

My prayer is God lets me keep going till the day he takes me.

I want to die like Moses, he died healthy!

But this one thing we know that day will come, so we need to say .. if the Lord wills we will do this or that!

Application:

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Remember the lesson God taught Nebuchadnezzar..

Daniel 4:30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

Daniel 4:31 While the word [was] in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, [saying], O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

Daniel 4:32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling [shall be] with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

Daniel 4:33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' [feathers], and his nails like birds' [claws].

Daniel 4:34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom [is] from generation to generation:

Daniel 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth [are] reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and [among] the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

Daniel 4:36 At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.

Daniel 4:37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works [are] truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.