[Music]

morning Church family we welcome you

here it's good to have you joining with

us and any visitors we are glad you

stopped by - we're gonna spend some time

in the word this morning and so let me

pray for us and we'll get started

father thank you for your grace to us we

need your spirit to help us understand

your word and to apply it to our lives

encourage our hearts this morning we

pray from your word in Jesus name we

pray amen

unless you have been on some remote

island for the past several weeks or

have had your head buried in the sand

you've heard about the coronavirus in

fact you can't read any news you can't

engage in any social media you can't

even really talk with others as you are

about in round town without engaging in

some kind of a discussion about this

coronavirus and oftentimes it leads to

division disagreements and even debates

when it comes to things like social

distancing how many feet are you

supposed to be a part how many people

can be in a room things like essential

and non-essential gatherings there's

discussion about how one defines those

terms even flattening the curve there's

discussion division debate disagreements

regarding whether or not it is actually

better to flatten the curve initially or

let it just have it's perfect work and

then it's over there's division and

debate all over the world when it comes

to it seems everything pertaining to the

coronavirus there's even divisions

discussions and debates regarding this

in the local church amongst leadership

people are are all over the spectrum

perhaps if you're like me maybe your

spouse disagrees with you on some

specific minor points of how we live out

life in light of this corona virus but I

think one thing that all of us can agree

on regardless

of the debates with the specificities of

the coronavirus one thing we can all

agree on is that this has been a game

changer this has brought our world to a

screeching halt our world has been

changed not only our world but our lives

our specific lives are individualized

when it comes to is planning when it

comes to scheduling things the things

that we have already schedules schedule

these things have been altered because

of the coronavirus the illustration that

has come to mind really over the past

couple weeks as I evaluate and assess

our world in which we are currently

living in was the stepping on an anthill

as a young boy perhaps you've done this

you see an anthill an ant mound on the

sidewalk you come along and you step on

it and all of a sudden these ants which

are typically well ordered which are

very productive they seem to be even

planners if you will all of a sudden

they go scurrying around all crazy like

that illustration has come to mind over

the last couple weeks as I assess our

world it's as if our world has been

stepped on and we are all shook up

running around in a panic and so I think

it is a good time to pause and to

reflect and evaluate and assess our

response to this occasion that we have

in life

that we take advantage of the

opportunity to learn from what is going

on in our world and so what I want to do

I want us to go and evaluate our hearts

in light of what God's Word says I want

us to evaluate our hearts condition I

want us to evaluate and assess our

hearts affections and our mindsets and I

think God speaks to this in James

chapter 4

so if you have a Bible and you want to

turn there I encourage you to do so but

in James chapter 4 verses 13 to 17 God

through James seems to speak to a

specific area of life where we have an

opportunity to evaluate specifically

when it comes to our planning James

chapter 4 verse 13 for starters reads

this way come now you who say today or

tomorrow we will go to such in such a

city and spend a year there and engage

in business and make a profit I think

what James is saying God through James

that is a saying okay listen up certain

type of person I want you to listen up

the person who says the person who is

planning for his future the person who

has all of the questions answered did

you see that in the text this individual

this this person's being described as

today or tomorrow at such-and-such a

time when today or tomorrow who well the

individual and the one he's speaking to

the we so the who is the we the win is

today or tomorrow and in the text it

says we're gonna go to such and such a

city that answers the question of where

then he goes on to say how long he's

going to spend there and that is a year

and what are they gonna do when they're

in this particular city spending a year

they're gonna engage in a business

that's the what the question of what is

the outcome what is the aim what is the

goal of going to the city and spending a

year there and that is they're going to

make he and particularly going to make a

profit I step back and I look at this

verse and I think to myself what's wrong

with that

this individuals a planner he has it all

figured out right he's ambitious

he has Drive I like this guy what's

wrong with this the problem is this is a

description of an arrogant planner

he does he has everything figured out

he is a presumptuous planner his

presumption is rooted in pride he in a

boasting fashion to the person he's

speaking to so this is his arrogant

heart mindset it's being manifested as

arrogance in this activity that he will

engage in but he is also boasting about

this to someone else

he is dogmatically saying that for sure

for certain that these things will take

place he's an arrogant planner and God

has something to say about this arrogant

planner and verse 16 we find you want to

follow along and verse I'm sorry in

verse 14 we find yet you do not know

what your life will be like tomorrow you

are just a vapor that appears for a

little while and then vanishes away I

think what God is saying here through

James is okay good you've got it all

figured out don't you but have you

considered what I think about it have

you considered what I say about it and

what God does here through James in

verses 14 and verses 15 as he wants to

remind this planner and to point out to

this planner that he is an arrogant

planner because he has to faulty views

and verse 14 this arrogant planner God

says has a vault a faulty view of life

that's what is going on here when James

says you don't know what tomorrow even

holds you're planning for the future

good but your heart's attitude and

speech as is this is for sure gonna

happen and you're gonna make it happen

and that you have the power and the

ability to control your situation and

your circumstances to make sure that

that

in that you have thoroughly thought

through well for sure happen we do the

same don't we I think of the scheduling

that has taken place already in my own

life and the schedules and the plans

that I've heard from others already

perhaps you are an arrogant planner too

like I am and that is this you in your

arrogant heart and in my arrogant heart

will say yes we're going to go to this

location and we're gonna spend a week

there and we're gonna have vacation and

this is who's going and this is how

we're gonna get there and this is what

we are going to do the problem is our

arrogance is manifested when we have

this dogmatic certainty that these will

for sure

happen and that I'm going to make sure

it does happen perhaps it might sound

like you're going to go to this college

I'm gonna major for sure dogmatically in

this particular field and then when you

graduate you've got it all planned out

but you're going to go work in this

particular area at this particular

company and you're gonna pull down this

particular income perhaps you're an

arrogant planner and you have figured

out that you're going to marry this

particular person on this particular day

and you're gonna go to this particular

place for a honeymoon and you've got it

planned out how many kids are going to

have and the order in which you're going

to have them and the names that you're

going to call them the problem is that

it is possible to plan these things with

a heart of arrogance in such a way that

you will make sure or at least think you

will try to make sure that these things

will happen and that you are presuming

upon a lot of things that is a

demonstration of arrogant planning the

deal is this though God says this person

this person who's whose heart manifests

arrogance through its planning as a

faulty view of life because the Bible

tells us in this particular verse that

at the end of the day we do not know

what the future holds we don't know what

the future

if you're like me and all of us are

similar to some degree or another in our

planning but if you're like me you've

been finding yourself over the last

couple weeks and days when you are

before your calendar you pull up your

agenda on your phone that you've been

doing a lot of this delete delete

canceled postponed I've done that with

our own family calendar I've done that

with our ministry calendar there have

been things that we have been planning

for an entire year right ladies retreat

delete in our ministry we were planning

for a men's and women's spring and fall

focus sessions postponed Bible studies

perhaps postpone meetings postpone thing

after thing things that we have planned

for good things and right things but

things that we have planned for all of a

sudden have been deleted cancelled or

postponed because at the end of the day

we do not know what the future holds is

what James is saying here we don't know

what the future holds because no one

plans for plan altering events no one

plans for plan altering events no one

planned for this virus no one plans for

terrorist attacks no one plans for

natural disasters no one plans for

sicknesses no one plans for job losses

no one plans for death we cannot control

the future we can't control the future

and we can't even guarantee your own

life that's what God through James was

saying here when he speaks of our life

it's like a vapor it's like a mist it's

steam from a kettle that is suddenly

carried away by wind or immediately

evaporated that is a description of our

life we don't know what the future holds

we do not

and cannot even guarantee our own life

that's what James is saying that's what

God through James is saying here in

these few verses that unless we come to

grips and accept the truth of our

frailty of our hopelessness and our

helplessness then when our plans do

change we might be we might find

ourselves feeling like we're that ant

that just had its mound and it were its

hill stepped on and all of a sudden

we're running around life in a panic

so the point we need to get here at this

point of our challenge time is that if

you are presumptuous

about tomorrow then you and I have an

arrogant heart we have an arrogant heart

because we don't have the capability not

one of us here we don't have the

capability we don't have the power we

don't have the wisdom to to not only

think through all of the circumstances

that could interfere with those plans

that we have set we don't have a handle

on the future we cannot control the

environment or the situation in such a

way that will for sure

make those plans happen the agenda

happen in a way that we want them to so

I think James at this point is saying

not only is this unrealistic and foolish

servant arrogant planners have a faulty

view of life that's verse 14 but God

through James wants to share and show us

something else and that is arrogant

planners have a faulty view of God we

find that in verse 15 if you will follow

along verse 15 instead you ought to say

if the Lord wills we will live and also

do this and that instead you ought to

say this it's not just the saying we got

to keep in mind this is what we say and

what we do is a reflection of our hearts

mindset what James is saying

here is this is how we should be

speaking because this is how we should

be thinking this is what we should be

thinking this is our hearts mindset not

the previous verses 13 verse 13 14 verse

13 it was this is what I'm gonna do and

this is where I'm gonna go and this is

how I'm gonna do it and this is how I'm

going to execute my plan so that they do

for sure happen now God through James is

saying mmm this is what you need to say

and this is what you need to say this is

what's gonna come out of your mouth

because this is truly what you believe

verse 15 you ought to say if the Lord

wills if the Lord permits if the Lord

desires then we'll do this and we'll do

that we'll go here and we'll go there I

don't think this application of this

verse looks like just tacking it on at

the end of a prayer like you can check

that box don't even think that this is a

fatalistic expression well if it happens

it happens that's not what's going on

here in fact this is a confident

expression in God what is behind this is

James speaking to the individual to have

a hearts mindset and understanding that

submits his plans to God's plans this is

not speaking to the one who is lazy or

passive in life so know that now for

those of you that are quick to make this

now your life verse right this is

speaking to those who are planners the

Bible speaks and encourages us to plan

for the future that is considered in the

Proverbs to be wise this is speaking not

to the lazy or the passive this is

speaking to the one who in his planning

is planning out of a heart of arrogance

and God is saying you have a faulty view

of God you have a faulty view of me

that's what God is saying here we are to

humbly make plans and submission to

God's plans if you're not mine

whole if you do not have a right view of

God then the power and the sovereignty

lies with man a right view of God

understands believes and accepts that

the authority and sovereignty and power

lies with God and so man the believer is

to plan is to prepare is to count the

cost he is to do these things God

through James is not discouraging it but

he is doing so in such a way that

understands and recognizes believes and

submits to God's plans for our life even

if it changes what we have planned

and so I think what we need to be

reminded of here this morning is we are

planning we do plan to go here and to do

this and to bring these people with us

and to have this kind of an outcome but

we do it in such a way where the hearts

mindset and even prayer is God this is

my plan you are the sovereign one and I

trust you and if you also might alter my

plans I know that it actually is for my

good in Romans 8:28 way and so I submit

if you want to change my plans then I

trust you in it that is a demonstration

of a humble person who has a right view

of God a humble person who has a right

view of God believes and trusts in God's

power and his sovereignty over your life

he brings God into the planning picture

if you will and through the execution of

those plans and complete dependence and

submission to God the one who is

sovereign the one who is always the one

who is all-powerful the one who also is

all loving he will change our plans in

accordance and Submission with his for

our good and we either believe that

every don'ts and the humble per

believes that he receives it and he

responds rightly the arrogant person

bucks it he does not receive it and he

responds wrongly so God here is speaking

to the arrogant planet which we all have

the propensity at times in our lives to

plan arrogantly and not humbly and so

what God wants to do through James as he

warns us and verse 16 but this is

boasting this kind of boasting of our

plans is arrogance and arrogance 4:17 is

a sin and so that's why this is serious

that's why this is important and this is

why we should take advantage of the

opportunity in which we are in right now

to evaluate our hearts response when it

comes to our planning and even our

responses when our plans are changed by

God like the days in which we live now

our plans have changed because of the

coronavirus plans have changed plans

have been deleted plans have been

canceled plans have been / postponed and

we I believe I feel have a great

opportunity here in this text to - - to

learn from this moment in life and which

we are in to reflect and assess our

heart what is God teaching us and he's

teaching us to be more humble in our

planning for the future specifically as

tax or - as we have seen this morning

from verses 14 and 15 that we too often

have a false view of life in a false

view of God while the coronavirus is the

result of living in a sin cursed world

and human is speaking unfortunately

there have been plans cancelled jobs

lost sicknesses and even death it is

possible that good can come out of this

if we stop and evaluate our hearts

humble ourselves and remember

we don't know what tomorrow brings that

life is a vapor and we keep planning and

we keep scheduling but we do so with the

humble dependence and submission to our

sovereign God and the result is actually

what James has already spoken of a

handful of verses in the previous

section and that is this God opposes the

arrogant but he does give grace to the

humble he gives grace to the humble and

grace is what we need more than anything

else in this world grace is what we need

more than the accomplishment of our

schedules and our the accomplishment of

our plans grace is what we need more

than furthered agendas grace is what we

need more than turning a profit grace is

what we need more than keeping jobs

grace is really what we need more than

perfect health we need grace and grace

only comes through trusting in the Lord

I think of the great Apostle Paul he

comes to mind the great Apostle Paul was

a plant he was a planner but I'm sure he

didn't plan for riots and mobs in the

cities where he went to preach and teach

he was a planner but I'm sure he didn't

plan for beatings he was a planner but

he didn't plan for being put and thrown

in jail he was a planner but he didn't

plan for shipwrecks he was a planner

however he did so humbly submitting his

plans to God because he had a right view

of life and a right view of God and so

then later he would write in Philippians

chapter 4 that he has learned in

whatsoever state he was in he learned to

be content about you are you content

this morning are you content with your

state of life right now

perhaps the season our world is in right

now

has taught us all or is teaching us now

to humbly respond and to submit our

plans to a sovereign and gracious God

who is in complete control of everything

and to respond not with fear to respond

not in panic to respond not in

discontentment to respond not in

frustration but rather to respond as

believers in this time with a heart and

a demonstration and a speech of hope a

faith of peace of contentment and rest

which is graciously given by a loving

and sovereign God to a people who not

only humble themselves but submit their

plans before God that's our prayer let's

pray father thank you for this

opportunity to evaluate our heart and

light of of where things are at in our

world today father forgive us for being

arrogant planners forgive us for not

having a right view of life and a right

view of you the Father I pray as

believers here this morning we would

heed your word that we would be reminded

that you are the sovereign one and that

you are in control but you are a great

and powerful God who is a good God a

good God who loves us a good God who is

eager to display and to give abundant

grace to all who humble themselves

before you father I pray that we going

forward would would evaluate and assess

our hearts and our hearts response to

even schedules that have been altered

and changed may this be a wonderful

occasion to redirect our hearts back to

you in humility and to submit our plans

to you father we love you we thank you

for this in your son's name Amen