

SMALL GROUP

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Foolishness Of Practical Atheism
James 4:13-17

Sermon Summary

An atheist is anyone who, philosophically, does not believe in a god or gods. Any while the majority of people would renounce the philosophical premise of atheism, at the same time, they would embrace a lifestyle of practical atheism. A practical atheist is someone who believes God exist, but doesn't live like He exists. Practical atheism is the height of arrogance and is utter foolishness. James challenged his readers to avoid practical atheism by providing two reasons who it is foolish.

Diving Into The Message

1. Arrogance and pride among his readers were major issues James had to address. According to verse 16, once again James had to address the issues. According to verses 13-17, how was pride manifesting itself among the members of James' congregation?
2. In planning out their lives apart from God, James' readers were denying the sovereignty of God over their lives and elevating themselves as their own lords. What are some ways you/we do the same thing today?
3. Can you think of areas of daily living that demand we check with God regularly for His direction and other areas in which He has spoken once for all? Create a list of areas of life that do not require a daily check and areas that do and discuss how they apply to you right now.
4. Life is filled with certainties and uncertainties and sometimes the two merge into one. It is certain that all humans will die, but it is uncertain when death will come. In what way had James' readers forgotten this truth and how did it demonstrate practical atheism?
5. Michael stated that James was not condemning planning. If not, then what was the point of his warning about the shortness of life and how should that impact our everyday living?
6. Most people tend to put off until tomorrow what they should do today. Sometimes what they put off isn't really of any eternal consequence, but sometimes it is. What are the eternal, Kingdom of God "must dos" in your life that require you no longer put them off?
7. What is one take-away from today's message and how will you apply it to your life to ensure you adopt a biblical view of wealth and status?

Prayer Action

1. As area schools near their return date, pray for wisdom for administrators and safety for teachers and students.
2. Ask the Lord to bring a sense of calm in our country and churches as His people depend on Him.