



SBC sermon for Sunday 11th October 2020

Reading : James 4 v 13-17

Boasting about tomorrow.

We have all said, 'I will do this or that tomorrow' haven't we? Yet we all should know by now that tomorrow never comes, it is always today. How many times have you planned something and it has to be postponed or cancelled especially this year?

It was a great disappointment although not unexpected that Mark and I were not able to go to Israel this year as we had planned, but we enjoyed our break away on the Isle of Wight and Great Yarmouth. Yes, it wasn't the same, but we were thankful that God blessed us with some glorious weather.

Society today tells us that we should plan for the future, e.g. jobs, old age, Pensions, care packages, funeral expenses, etc. we have all seen the adverts on TV, yet our reading this morning says to us, how do we know that we will even reach old age? How do we know how long we have left on this earth? We don't, only God does, the only thing we do know is that death is certain, but we don't know the time or place.

This last 6 months have been really hard, especially for those who have lost loved ones due to Covid-19, and our thoughts and prayers go out for them all, and whether you think that they died before their time or not, it is not for us to say... Because God has his plans, and His plans are not necessary the same as ours. The Bible is pretty clear about it as well.

Psalm 139, God has planned our lives even before we were born,

Jeremiah 29 v11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart() 14 I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity

Proverbs 16 v 9 The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

Ephesians 1 v 4 He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him

I don't think that these are saying don't make plans, or that God is against us making plans, but we must be prepared to have them changed by God if they are not within his will. Let's think for a minute, about how many plans we make without praying about them first, not just personally but church wise as well, and why do we expect God to bless them if he hasn't been involved in them? One of the problems is that We don't get that God wants to bless us more than we can bless ourselves. He wants us to grow with Him and have an intimate and passionate relationship with Him. God wants you to understand the plans He has for you.

The picture that James paints for us here is a person who makes all these plans, looking at the diary they say I'll do this in June, I'll do that in September, in October make plans for Christmas and a Holiday in January, the trouble is that we can make so many plans that there is no room for God to



be involved in them, prayer time gets squeezed in our daily routines to almost nothing, sometimes forgotten altogether, the thing is If this pandemic has taught us anything, it should be that we don't know what's going to happen in six days, 6 weeks, or 6 months from now so how can we make those sort of plans? Someone once said, and I quote, 'the one thing we know for sure is we don't know for sure.'

The only one who knows is God and at the moment he isn't letting on.

As a house group we have been looking at Ecclesiastes, it is a book that is both hard to understand and challenging at the same time.

It tells us that there is a time for everything and yet also tells us that it is meaningless. The only option is that we rely on God for everything because what we do in life unless it comes from God then it is meaningless. All the good things that we do will not get us into heaven only our belief in Jesus does that, I am not saying that we shouldn't do good things because Jesus said that we should but what we shouldn't do is boast about it, our reward will be in heaven not on this earth.

So, let us pray about the plans we have both as a church and personally and make sure that they are in line with the plans that God has for us. It will not be easy as God has chosen to give us free will, but one thing is for sure it will be rewarding.

Amen