**PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIVING**

**A Study of the Book of James**

(James 4:13-5:6 - Be Careful about Money-Making)

*“Don’t Count Your Chickens before They Hatch!*”

Introduction: “Don’t count your chickens before they hatch.” What does that saying mean?

Do you believe it’s true? How do people normally apply that saying in their business dealings? In every day life? Is the truth behind that saying biblical?

**4:13-14 Over Interest in Money-Making Can Make a Person Forget That Life Is in God’s Hands**

vs13 Let’s go again to Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Read Matthew 6:25-27,34.

Agree or Disagree: Investments for the future use (e.g. retirement) show a person’s lack of trust in God’s care and providence.

vs14 “mist” - like exhaling a breath of air on a cold winter day

Agree or Disagree: Since we are only on earth for a short time, it is silly, even unbiblical, to plan for the future.

Now read the whole paragraph from Matthew 6:25-34. What is the key verse?

Agree or Disagree: It is a sin to worry about the future.

**4:15-17 Money-Making Leads to Empty Boasting in Riches Rather Than Doing Good**

vs15 Evaluate: Some church leaders say that “planning” in the church is essential. Others say, “It’s not right to use business principles in the church. Besides, the future is in God’s hands not ours.”

Can you think of areas of a congregation’s ministry in which planning is essential?

There is an old German saying, “Der Mensch denkt, und Gott lenkt” (“Man proposes, but God disposes”). How does that truism fit with these words from the apostle and fit into our understanding of the proper role of planning in the church?

Check these passages for other words from Scripture about “planning” for the future - Proverbs 16:9; 19:21: 27:1

vs16 In light of the context, what might the first readers of this letter have been boasting about?

**5:1-6 Our Security Is Not In Money, Wealth or Possessions, But In Our God and His Providence.**

Is it a sin to be rich? Is it a sin to want to be wealthy?

(Luke 12:16-21)

To whom might James be speaking in this paragraph?

(Amos 5:11-15)

How might this paragraph bring comfort to Christians?

How is this paragraph a warning to Christians, yes, even you and me?

*1st Commandment - You shall have no other gods. What does this mean? We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.*

How will we do this? (Romans 12:1-2)