

Becoming Mature in Christ

What Are You Doing with God's Will?

James 4:13-17

March 8, 2026

Bob Hightchew

Introduction:

- Last week we began James 4 – Three wars that rage in us or around us:
 - War with God –
 - War within ourselves –
 - War with others –
 - When a Christian is NOT living according to God's Will, they are troubled, and they have no peace in their life or in their family.
 - Lot –
 - David –
 - Jonah –
 - In each case, they had the wrong attitude toward God's Will.
 - As we study scripture we are giving our soul much needed medicine, and sometimes what we hear can be hard to swallow.
 - **Jeremiah 29:11-14**
 - James points out three attitudes that we can choose to have toward God's Will.
 - **James 4:13-17**
-

1. Disobey God's Will:

- a. There are people who know the Will of God and still choose to disobey it. Why?
 1. Pride – **James 4:16**
 2. Arrogant – Consider the poem, *Invictus*, by William Henley
 3. Biblically Ignorant –
- b. Disobeying God's will today may not seem like a serious thing, but it will be very serious on the day our Lord returns or you are called home.
- c. **2nd Peter 2:21**
- d. Once you know the Will of God, you are fully responsible for it.

2. Ignore God's Will:

- a. **James 4:17**
- b. Maybe you remember from our series in **Ecclesiastes** this phrase ... “*There is never a wrong time to do the right thing ... and there is never a right time to do the wrong thing.*”

- c. **Hebrews 10:25**
- d. So, if we know it's the right thing to do and we don't do it, James says we've sinned.
- e. **James 4:17** ... Wipes away almost every excuse we try to use, doesn't it? To know the good, we ought to do and not do it, makes it a sin.
- f. Ignoring God's Will is like walking through Mammoth Cave without a light and a tour guide.

3. Obey God's Will:

- a. **James 4:15**
- b. **Matthew 6:10**
- c. **Matthew 7:21**
- d. **Matthew 12:50**
- e. **Luke 22:41**
- f. Jesus is FULLY God and FULLY man. He knew He was about to face one of the most horrific forms of execution.
- g. **Matthew 26:39**
- h. **Mathew 26:42-44**
- i. Three times Jesus prays about the cross, the cruelest instrument of death known to man then and still to this day, as I have already said. But He did it anyway, why? Because it was the Will of the Father.
- j. **Hebrews 12:1-3**
- k. Ultimately, to Jesus all that mattered, the JOY of His heart, was getting you and me out of the clutches of our enemy to have the opportunity to be set free from SIN and DEATH. That was His JOY, that was His WILL, and He would spare no expense. He would do whatever it took to save us.
- l. You know the choice is yours to make: You can Disobey God's Will ... You can Ignore God's Will ... Or you can Obey God's Will.
- m. But in making your choice, I want to point out one thing: Our life on earth is short when you compare it to the eternal existence we will have when this life ends.
- n. **James 4:14**