

## EVANESCENCE James 4:13-17

*Evanesence, ephemeral - words that describe the fleeting, now here, now gone nature of life. Like our exhaled breath on a frosty morning that floats in the air and dissipates, we occupy space here for a moment in eternity and are gone. But we often act as though we have all the time in the world. Consider our stewardship of time:*

**1. Now listen** (*“Come now, go now”*) **you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will...”**

**2. Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow.** Busy and consumed with life. Building and seeking advancement. We're akin to a hamster running on a wheel. We expend energy but get where? Mostly the grave. Solomon had something to say *about this* (See Ecc).

**a.** What is your life? You are a mist (*“vapor, steam, breath”*) that appears for a while and vanishes (Ps 90:10-ff, Is 40:21-24, 64:6)

**b.** Instead you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and [we will] do this or that.”

**c.** As it is (*“now, however”*), you boast and brag (*“boast in your arrogance”*).

- All such boasting is evil.

- [Anyone] then, who knows the good he [ought] to do and doesn’t, sins (Lk 12:47, Jn 9:41, 13:17).

We “kill” time, spend time, make time, take “time out,” use “time shares,” set timers, have a good time, work overtime, have pastimes, etc. All ways to describe the manner in which we use the allotted time given to us.

We cannot add to our time, only burn it up (Mtt 6:27). Of all our resources, it is the most precious and likely the least considered. That was Solomon’s point in the book of Ecclesiastes.

We can be wise with the time we are given or foolish. We can pour ourselves into meaningful things....or not. But one thing is certain: when time is up, it is up and we take nothing with us except those things that actually matter. (Is 55:1-5, Jn 6:27)

Trust God - He has life handled (Dt 29:29)

Life is short - spend it wisely (Ps 89:47)

God knows our frailty - Ps 78:39