

# “Lord Willing” (Pt. 1)

*James 4:13-17*

## I. The Biblical Truth of God’s Sovereignty

A. God’s Sovereignty – What He Is

B. God’s Providence – What He Does

1. God preserves all things He created (Ps.36:6).

2. God controls all things He created to ensure His purposes are accomplished (Is. 24:24-27; Dan. 4:35).

## II. An Unintentional Denial of God’s Sovereignty (13-14)

A. A Common Example (13)

# John Blanchard

James “was not condemning their business but their boasting; not their industry but their independence; not their acumen but their arrogance.”

# Douglas Moo

This is a “worldview that leaves God out of account, marked by boastful self-reliance.... James is not rebuking these merchants for their plans or even for their desire to make a profit. He rebukes them rather for the this-worldly self-confidence that they exhibit in pursuing these goals.... What James rebukes here ... is any kind of planning for the future that stems from human arrogance in our ability to determine the course of future events.”

# Kent Hughes

“So pervasive is our culture’s arrogant independence of God that even many Christians attend church, marry, choose their vocations, have children, buy and sell homes, expand their portfolios, and numbly ride the currents of culture without substantial reference to the will of God.”

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### II. An Unintentional Denial of God’s Sovereignty (13-14)

A. A Common Example (13)

B. An Irrational Mindset (14)

1. Because Life Is Uncertain (14a)

2. Because Life Is Short (14b)

# Does the way you think, speak, and live affirm or deny that God is sovereign over...

1. Your decisions & plans ("the ones saying, we will go")
2. Your daily schedule ("today or tomorrow")
3. Your future ("we will be there a year")
4. Your major life changes ("we will go")
5. Your location ("such and such a city")
6. Your occupation ("go and engage in business")
7. The results of your decisions, plans, and activities ("we will make a profit")