

**A Revival Of Our Hearts (#14)**  
**“How To Avoid Making Mistakes In The Future”**  
**Cornerstone Church Of Poway**  
**Pastor Ed Turley**  
**July 5, 2020**

**Big Idea:** We need a revival in our hearts and homes that changes our lives.

“Come close to God, and God will come close to you.” **James 4:8a (NLT2)**

**Remember Verse**

**When Facing The Future, We Need To:**

**1. Avoid The Mistake Of \_\_\_\_\_**

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. **James 4:13-14 (NIV)**

Instead, you ought to say, "**If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.**" As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. **James 4:15-16 (NIV)**

Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty. **Proverbs 21:5 (NLT2)**

“Trust in the LORD and **do good**. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. Take **delight** in the LORD, and he will give you your heart’s desires. **Commit** everything you do to the LORD. **Trust** him, and he will help you. He will make your **innocence radiate** like the dawn, and the **justice of your cause** will shine like the noonday sun. **Be still** in the presence of the LORD, and **wait patiently** for him to act. **Don’t worry** about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes. **Psalms 37:3-7 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Avoid The Mistake Of \_\_\_\_\_**

Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. **James 4:14 (NIV)**

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against **all kinds of greed**; a **man's life** does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a **good crop**. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll **say to myself**, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" "But God said to

him, 'You fool! **This very night your life will be demanded from you.** Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

**Luke 12:15-21 (NIV)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### **3. Avoid The Mistake Of \_\_\_\_\_**

Anyone, then, who **knows the good He ought to do** and doesn't do it, sins.

**James 4:17 (NIV)**

“What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have **faith** but don't show it by your **actions**? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, **faith by itself isn't enough.** Unless it **produces good deeds**, it is dead and useless.” **James 2:14-17 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

- **How does my relationship with God affect my future plans?**

#### **My next right steps, I will:**

- Pray and seek God's wisdom for future decisions by reading through Psalm 37
- Be present in my relationships
- Do something good for someone this week
- Ask Jesus to be my Lord and Savior

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**Family Corner:** [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it to 12 minutes or less.]

**Small Groups:** [Choose as many questions that honor your group's time commitment]

**Open in Prayer:**

- What thoughts from this week's message encourage me to live like Jesus?

**Icebreaker:** Are you a long-range planner or do you take one day at a time?

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**Remember Verse**

**Life Application Study Bible.**

**4:13-16** It is good to have goals, but goals can disappoint us if we leave God out of them. There is no point in making plans as though God does not exist because the future is in his hands. The beginning of good planning is to ask: "What would I like to be doing ten years from now? One year from now? Tomorrow? How will I react if God steps in and rearranges my plans?" We can plan ahead, but we must hold on to our plans loosely. If we put God's desires at the center of our planning, he will never disappoint us.

**4:14** Life is short no matter how many years we live. Don't be deceived into thinking that you have lots of remaining time to live for Christ, to enjoy your loved ones, or to do what you know you should. Live for God today! Then, no matter when your life ends, you will have fulfilled God's plan for you.

**4:17** We tend to think that *doing* wrong is sin. But James tells us that sin is also *not* doing right. (These two kinds of sin are sometimes called sins of commission and sins of omission.) It is a sin to lie; it can also be a sin to know the truth and not tell it. It is a sin to speak evil of someone; it is also a sin to avoid that person when you know he or she needs your friendship. You should be willing to help as the Holy Spirit guides you. If God has directed you to do a kind act, to render a service, or to restore a relationship, do it. You will experience a renewed and refreshed vitality to your Christian faith.

## **When Facing The Future, We Need To:**

### **1. Avoid The Mistake Of Planning Without God**

#### **Read James 4:13-16**

When planning, when do you seek God's guidance: Before you start? Midway through? After you made up your plans? After things fall apart?

If you could go back in time and tell your younger self some mistakes to avoid, what would they be?

#### **Read Psalm 37:3-7**

What does it mean to trust the Lord and do good?

What prerequisites are there for God to give you the desires of your heart?

What do you need to commit to the Lord?

In what areas of your life do you need to trust Him more?

Where do you need to be still with the Lord?

### **2. Avoid The Mistake Of Taking Tomorrow For Granted**

#### **Read James 4:14**

What is your earliest memory?

#### **Read Luke 12:15-21**

What point is Jesus driving home in this parable?

When you look back in your life, where do you wish you spent more time.

### **3. Avoid The Mistake Of Delaying Doing Good**

#### **Read James 4:17**

What good thing have you been delaying doing?

#### **Read James 2:14-17**

Where do you need to put your faith into action?

**Close in Prayer:** Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.

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