

Two Things You Do Not Know

James 4:11-17

A. Be careful with the hearts of God's children (4:11-12)

1. It is not God's _____ for you to speak evil of a brother or sister in the Lord.
(*"Do not speak evil of one another, brethren."* v11a)

2. The four-part argument for _____ it is not right for you to speak ill of others:
 - a. To speak evil of a brother is _____ that you have judged a brother.
(*"He who speaks evil of a brother and judges a brother..."* v11b)

 - b. To speak evil of a brother is to place yourself _____ God's word.
(*"...speaks evil of the law and judges the law."* v11c)

 - c. Your role is rather to place yourself _____ the authority of God's word.
(*"But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge."* v11d)

 - d. The author of divine Scripture is the _____ one who stands in authority to hold people accountable to Scripture. (*"There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?"* v12)

* Only God can see hearts. What does this limitation free you from?

B. Be careful with your expectations of tomorrow (4:13-17)

1. A hypothetical speaker is introduced to _____ a common, presumptuous pride.
(*"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit.'"* v13)
2. Two related realities which such a statement fails to take into account:
 - a. Your position of _____ – (*"You do not know what will happen tomorrow."* v14a)
 - b. Your weakness and _____ – (*"Your life is a vapor"* v14b)
3. A corrected statement is provided which takes an _____ view of your low rank and your dependence on God into account.
(*"Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.'"* v15)
4. James accuses those who presume the place of God in their thinking of being _____.
(*"But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil."* v16)
5. Although it is not right to presume you know more than you do, whenever you do know what is right, God holds you _____ for that.
(*"Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."* v17)

* Only God can see tomorrow. What does this limitation free you from?