

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” James 4:13-15

We are six months out from the Holy Land trip. There is a still time to sign up for those who have been considering it. I do not yet know what all of the Covid-related protocols for international travel will be in late March of 2022. Everything changes so rapidly that hazarding a guess six months in advance would be foolhardy. I do know that Educational Opportunities, which is the Christian travel company we’re using, will not take any severe risks and will not do the trip if the tour does not have good access to the most important sites.

So today I invite you to say, “In six months we will go into such and such places in Jordan and Israel and spend ten days there and see some of the most incredible sights on the globe.” Yet I also invite you to remember that you don’t know what tomorrow may bring. So--- if the Lord wills it, in six months we will go to such and such a place...”

Planning has been a source of constant frustration for the last couple of years. But really, Covid does not introduce anything truly new. It isn’t as though everything was always perfectly predictable and now it is not. The attitude that our plans are subject to God’s will and timing should always characterize our thoughts and aims. But that shouldn’t keep us from planning. If you make dinner reservations at a restaurant, you have to acknowledge the possibility that you might not be eating there after all. Maybe you get a flat tire, maybe you get sick, maybe the restaurant burns down, whatever. But if you do not make dinner reservations, it almost certain you will not be eating there. As they say in business, failing to plan is planning to fail. Same with buying tickets to a game, or enrolling in school. If you enroll for next year, you should still add “God willing” to the declaration that you’re going there. But if you don’t enroll you shouldn’t say anything at all.

Whether we’re planning the Holy Land trip, waiting word from Pr. Krebs about our call, or planning rides to volleyball and soccer games, we have to remember that all time, including our time, is in God’s hands. A fool fails to plan or plans as though he is in total control. A Christian plans diligently and prays humbly that God would grant success to our plans.

In Christ, Pastor Speckhard