

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon notes for July 22-23, 2000

"Deo Volente"

Dale Whitehead

James 4:13-17

What We Must Never Say!

We must never say anything that arrogantly communicates that we have control over our lives.

Those who leave God out of their planning are foolish because they are ignorant of the future.

Secondly, those who leave God out of their planning are foolish because their lives are brief (Job 7:6,9; 9:25; Psalms 102:11; 103:15-16).

What We Should Say!

We need to humbly communicate that it is not us who are in charge but rather the Lord.

The expression "if the Lord wills" does not appear anywhere in the Old Testament, though it is used several times in the New Testament (Acts 18:21; 1 Corinthians 4:19).

However, in similar instances Paul talks confidently about his future plans without using the phrase (Acts 19:21; Romans 15:28; 1 Corinthians 16:5).

Obviously it is not the words themselves which is the issue but the heart attitude that accompanies the words.

The Puritans loved the phrase "If the Lord wills" and filled their speech and correspondence with the Latin equivalent Deo Volente, "God willing."

It is not without significance that the Puritan epoch, as well as the Wesleyan revivals, were golden ages of evangelical Christianity. "God willing" is the posture of a burning heart. The phrase "God willing" humbly acknowledges that it is not us but the Lord who is in charge.