



The Need for Vision
“Hope Church 2025” Series
James 4 & Romans 15
November 1, 2020
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this sermon we explore the need for vision for the gospel ministry of a local church.

The Text: James 4:13-17 and Romans 15:18-21

James 4:13-17: ¹³ *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” — ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.*

Romans 15:18-21: ¹⁸ *For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; ²⁰ and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, ²¹ but as it is written, “Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.”*

- 1) This series intends to bring clarity to the ministry of Hope Church in the years to come.

- 2) Before I share “what” the vision of Hope Church is, we need to understand “why” we need a vision.
 - a) *A specific vision for ministry is biblical (Romans 15:20a).*

 - b) *A specific vision for ministry is how we contextualize the gospel (Romans 15:20b).*

 - c) *A specific vision for ministry is how we seek and submit to God’s will (James 4:15).*

 - d) *A specific vision for ministry is how we confirm we are doing “the right thing” (James 4:17).*

Response

Be Thou My Vision, O Lord of my heart.

Sunday Text Questions for James 4:13-17 and Romans 15:18-21 (“Hope Church 2025” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: How might a vision be helpful to an organization or ministry?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) What does Rom 15:18 teach us about the ministry assignment or focus Christ gave to the apostle Paul?
- 4) The word translated as “ambition” in Rom 15:20 also means “mission” or maybe even “assignment.” What does this verse teach us about different focuses (foci) and approaches to the ministry of the gospel?
- 5) What is the general concern of James 4:13-17?
- 6) How does James 4:15 hold in tension the making of plans and yet the seeking and submitting to God’s will?
- 7) How can we – an individual and a church – “seek” the will of God for their life and ministry?
- 8) Based upon James 4:17, how can we know “the right thing to do,” especially in relation to the ministry of the gospel in a local church?
- 9) Based upon Scripture, what are some of the obvious ministry tasks every church should be doing?
- 10) Based upon our context, what are some ministry tasks Hope Church needs to improve upon or should be doing? [Note: think biblical practices not personal preferences]

Further study this week: Passages on the need for vision: Proverbs 29:18 (Mon); 1 John 4:1 (Tues); 2 Corinthians 4:18 (Wed); Acts 1:8 (Thurs); John 16:13 (Fri).