

## **How to Face Your Future**

James 4:13-17

### **The Dash**

**Birth** \_\_\_\_\_ **– Death** \_\_\_\_\_

How are you spending your DASH? What are you doing with your DASH?

*“Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life?  
It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.” James 4:14*

*“My life is no longer than the width of my hand...human existence is but a breath...” Psalm 39:5*

*“...my days disappear like smoke...” Psalm 102:3*

*“...for we are like breath of air; our days are like a passing shadow.” Psalm 144:3*

*“...my days are running out quicker than the thread of a fast moving needle...  
My life is just a breath...” Job 7:6,7*

#### **Three Common Mistakes to Avoid:**

### **Mistake 1: Planning Without GOD!**

*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.” James 4:13*

#### **The Solution:**

Include God in your goal setting. SURRENDER your plans for 2014 to God.

*“If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that,” James 4:15*

*“We may make plans, but God has the last word” Proverbs 16:1*

*“We should make plans – counting on God to direct us.” Proverbs 16:9*

### **Mistake 2: Presuming About TOMORROW!**

*“Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life?  
It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.  
But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.” James 4:14 & 16*

#### **Two Facts about Life:**

➤ Life is UNCERTAIN.

➤ Life is BRIEF.

#### **The Solution:**

Live one day at a time. SAVOR each moment of 2014.

*“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things.  
Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” Matthew 6:34*

### **Mistake 3: Putting Off Doing GOOD!**

*“Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.” James 4:17*

#### **The Solution:**

Do it now. SEEK God’s heart and will in 2014 now.

*“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to  
do so. Do not say to your neighbor, ‘Go, and come back and tomorrow I will give it’,  
when you have it with you.” Proverbs 3:27-28*