

James 5:7-12

- Intro:**
- Are the persons addressed in vss. 7-12 different than those addressed in vss. 1-6?
 - Which of these best summarizes the primary subject of these verses?
 - endurance?
 - patience?
 - judgment?
 - second coming?
- Vs. 7**
- Does the “coming of the Lord” refer to...
 - the coming final judgment of God?
 - the coming judgment of God upon Israel?
 - the coming of Jesus to earth a second time?
 - Did the early Christians expect Jesus to return in their lifetime?
 - Was this a false-hope fostered by early Christian teachers and writers?
 - What were James’ readers becoming impatient about?
 - the continued suffering, oppression and persecution of Christians?
 - the extended interim of time without consummation of Christ’s work?
 - that Jesus had not returned as had been promised?
 - that God did not act in determinative judgment to punish the wicked and vindicate the righteous?
 - How does the agricultural analogy of the farmer illustrate the need for patience?
 - the farmer waits in hope between the time of sowing and reaping?
 - the farmer waits for God’s timetable, and can’t speed up the process?
 - the farmer knows how to endure prolonged periods of expectation?
 - the farmer knows how to endure failures, infestations, hard times and shortages?
 - the farmer expects that there will be consequences and results of his actions?
- Vs. 8**
- What does James mean by “strengthen your hearts”?
 - “be emotionally and psychologically strong”?
 - “do not grow weary of doing good”? (cf. II Thess 3:13)
 - “do not force the issue with external actions”?
 - “find your strength in God’s grace” (cf. Heb. 13:9; Phil. 4:13)
 - “find your patience in the ‘fruit of the Spirit’”? (Gal. 5:22,23)
 - “take courage in that God will execute and enact His justice in judgment”?
 - Does the “coming of the Lord is at hand” mean...
 - that the second coming of Jesus is imminent? ...expected? ...impending?
 - that God’s coming in final judgment is assured? ...imminent? ...drawing near?
 - that God’s judgment of Israel is just around the corner? ...imminent?
- Vs. 9**
- In what ways might the readers have been “complaining against one another”?
 - faulting one another in the frustration of waiting through difficult circumstances?
 - blame-shifting, or “turning one another in” for expressions of impatience?
 - murmuring that others did not have as much adversity as they did?
 - Will Christians be judged by the divine Judge? For what?
 - for final destiny of heaven or hell?
 - for actions such as false-teaching? (cf. 3:1)
 - for impatience? (cf. vs. 8)
 - for complaining? (cf. vs. 9)
 - for swearing? (cf. vs. 12)
 - for their “works” of misrepresentative Christian behavior?
 - for actions and behaviors not derived from the grace of God in Christ?

Vss. 10 & 11

- How were the prophets and Job examples of suffering? endurance? patience?
- Does the “outcome of the Lord’s dealings” refer to...
 - God’s dealings with Job?
 - Jesus’ suffering, endurance and patience in death?
- What does it mean to “endure”?
 - passive resignation?
 - stoic resolve?
 - resolute perseverance?
 - abiding acceptance?
- In what way are those who endure “blessed”?
 - they feel happy?
 - they receive the rite of “blessing”?
 - good words are invoked upon them?
 - they are recipients of God’s rewards?

Vs. 12 • How does this verse relate to vss. 5-11?

- What does it mean to “swear” or utter an “oath”?
 - cursing? swear words? foul language?
 - judicial, legal sworn oaths in courtroom?
 - religious oath of orthodoxy?
 - invoking something to ensure or assure truthfulness?
- When James writes, “let your yes be yes, and your no, no”, does he mean...
 - “say what you mean and mean what you say”?
 - “speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth”?
 - “don’t try to circumvent honesty by using
 - verbal ambiguities?
 - language loop-holes?
 - half-truths?
 - mental reservations?
 - crossing your fingers?
 - “your word should be your honor”?
 - “a Christian’s straight-forward verbal expression should evidence the integrity of an integral oneness with the One who is Truth”?
- How does a Christian “fall under judgment”?
 - judged to hell for swearing?
 - condemned for falsehood or dishonesty?
 - consequences of failing to allow character of Christ to be expressed in our behavior?

Conc. • Are there situations in your life that you must patiently endure?

- Are you tempted to...
 - take matters into your own hands?
 - try to speed up the process?
 - try to force the issue?
 - try to escape, avoid, or be delivered?
- Does the interim until God deals with the situation become frustrating?
- Is it easy to complain about others, or to others in such situations?
- Are we tempted to sacrifice the integrity of our integral oneness with Christ?
- Do you ever get exasperated that the wicked seem to prosper in the world today?
- Do you wonder how long it is going to take for God to make things right?
- Does the present world situation pose an “enigma of the interim” between the Christian assertion of Christ’s victory and the expected consummation of Christ’s work?