

Title: Patience! The Lord Is Coming

Text: James 5:7-11

I would like you to open your Bibles, if you would please, to James chapter 5. Today, we enter the third section in our study of James. This third section is --3A on your outline --is entitled THE TRIUMPH OF FAITH. We have look at the TEST OF FAITH IN CHAPTER 1. We have looked at the CHARACTERISTICS OF FAITH in chapters 2-3 and 4. Now, we come to THE TRIUMPH OF FAITH. James chapter 5 beginning with Vs 7 on the subject: (1B) PATIENCE! THE LORD IS COMING. *OK Faith involves patience in waiting for the Lord's return* James 5 verse 7....(READ Vs 7-11)

PRAYER

Father, we thank you again for the Word of God. And we thank you, for the promise that it will be a comfort to our hearts. We read in your Word that the second coming of Christ is the great hope of the Christain. So, Father, we pray that you would guide our thoughts through your Word today. We pray that your message might be to everyone. And Lord, we pray that we might make those decisions which you would have us make. And we pray that those outside of Christ ...whose who have never received Christ...would make the greatest of all decisions to accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

And Father, I pray for every Christian here today, that we might take your Word to heart and be prepared that our hearts might hear: "WELL, DONE THY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT."

We pray this in the wonderful name of Jesus....AMEN

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*omit* I might say as we begin that next Sunday I will be bringing a very important message on the last part of James 5 which is concerned with GOD'S METHOD OF HEALING people. That is --PHYSICAL HEALING GOD'S WAY. I hope you will be here.

Now, let's come to our subject for today. James is discussing the subject of PATIENCE in its relationship to the coming of Christ. And in this passage, James gives us four reason why we need PATIFNCE. Four reasons.

(1C) Number one, Vs 7, ~~James gives us the first reason for being patient. He says that the reason for patience, is THE EXAMPLE OF THE HARVEST.~~ *we find the first reason why we need to be patient. That is*

Vs 7.. "Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early rain in the spring as well as the late rain in the fall." Be patient. *BRETHREN*. And the reason given is the example of the harvest

Now..WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ME BEING PATIENT? Why can I look at the harvest and assume that I should be patient for the coming of Christ?

*OVER* In 2 Peter chapter 3 verse 9 we read, "The Lord is not slow about His promise" (the promise of his second coming) He is not slow "about His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance."

So, this is telling me that God is patient *in His return* ~~with Christians~~ because He wants everyone to hear the Gospel and to have the opportunity to personally repent and come to Christ. God is patient. He is waiting for the precious fruit of the earth.

Often, *People* Christians get to the point where they say, "Well, if Christ is coming again, when will it be?"

In this same chapter, Chapter 3 of 2 Peter, we read in Vs 3 that in the last days mockers will come and say, "where is the promise of His coming?" After all, Jesus was here over 19 hundred years ago and if he is coming, WHERE IS HE?

Now, in our illustration here in James 5, the farmer is God. And it is God who is waiting for the precious fruit of the harvest.

If you are here, today, and you have never received Christ as your personal saviour and Lord, then you are part of the reason God has delayed His coming. God is delaying his coming because as a farmer *He* is waiting for the precious fruit of the harvest. He is waiting for people to come to Christ. Jesus says that He is not willing for any to perish, but that all should come to repentence.

Why hasn't Jesus returned to earth? Because He is still gathering together His precious fruit.

Oh, let me tell you. I am glad He waited for me. I am glad He delayed His coming just a little longer so that I might be saved.

What about you? Maybe you are here today and you have considered the claim of Christ on your life, but you have never trusted Him. YOU have never made that decision that would settle this once and for all. You have never invited Christ to be your Lord and Saviour. May I say that the example of the harvest tells me that Jesus is delaying His coming because God is patient. And he is not willing that any should perish. He wants you to be saved. He wants you to come to Him, today. The example of the harvest *is so powerful.*

(2) The second reason why we need to be patient as to the Lord's coming is found in Vs 8. It says, "you too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."

THE EXPECTANCE OF HIS SOON RETURN IS the second reason to be patient. James says, "the Lord is at hand."

I would like to share something with you that was thrilling to me as I studied this phrase. The phrase "AT HAND" is used in the "perfect" tense in Greek. You use the "perfect" tense when you want to talk about something happening in the past, but it has a present finished result. And this is what James uses here in Vs 8. He is saying that the Lord has already come near.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? It means that the coming of Christ is so certain that God considers it as having already taken place. And it should, therefore, have its present effect on us, right now. WOW! That is so precious.

You know, often you have heard people talk about the second coming of Christ, and they say that it is immediate. Meaning, it can happen at any moment. That is the indication, here, in James. The Lord's coming is treated as though it ~~were~~ *was* a present fact. There is absolutely no question about it. And this truth should be making an impact upon Christians, right now..

Let me ask you a question. IS IT? The fact of the Lord's immediate return --Is that fact making an impact on your life, right now? *And if not, why not?*

We are told in the Gospel of Matthew that God's people ought to watch and be ready. Jesus told his disciples over and over again to watch and be ready. I wonder how the coming of Christ effects us in daily life? What is it doing to us, right now? The Bible says that it is just like a fact that has already been accomplished. It is already settled in the mind of God. He knows the day. He know the time. And He knows the very moment when Jesus will come again.

Now, we don't know when that is. The Bible tells us that we can not know the day or the hour. *We are TOLD To Be Ready*  
~~We cannot set the day.~~

We all have heard of people in days gone by who have set dates and this has caused much confussion. So, we need to remember the council of God and do not fall into the trap of setting dates.

*But,* WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY? to be patient..to be ready...to live expentently. WHY? Because at any moment Christ might come. His coming is so near it might happen today. Be patient for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

EXPECTANCY....Do <sup>we</sup> you expect the Lord to come? Or, are <sup>we</sup> you living <sup>our</sup> your life as if it did not matter. We plan for the future with no thought of God's will. We live for tomorrow...always tomorrow will be a better day...and yet, Christ could come today.

You know, dear friends, an expectancy of the second coming of Jesus will make the problems that we face so tiny in comparison to the greatest fact of all history. That a person who lived, ~~here~~, who died, who rose again, is going to come again. That, dear friends, is the greatest fact history has ever produced. JESUS IS COMING...BE PATIENTT ...BUT LIVE EXPECTANTLY....

(3C) O.K. In Vs 9 James gives to us the third reason for being PATIENT..

*Here we see the evaluation of the judge  
vsy*

"Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the judge is standing right at the door."

Oh, how easy it is as christians to complain against one another. And God says, "DON'T DO IT." WHY? Because you will be judged for it.

~~But, you say, "That is later...that is in the future."~~

Oh, no! The judge is standing right at the door. And the moment that Christ comes we will be taken to the judgment seat of Christ. And christians who have complained against one another will stand before God. <sup>If you are a christian</sup> The issue will not be salvation. For that issue was settled the moment we received Christ as Saviour. But, the issue will be HOW WE HAVE LIVED THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. And <sup>God</sup> Jesus said, "Do not complain, brethren, against one another."

And the point is so clear: Before you say another hasten word against a brother or sister in Christ, remember the WORD OF GOD spoken through his servant James: BE PATIENT--because the judge is standing at the door.

The coming of Christ is so near that Christians should live differently with one another....We should be different from the world. WHY? Because Jesus is coming. His coming is ~~is~~ so near He is standing at the door. And every idle word....every wrong motive and thought....God says He will, one day, put on display.

So the evaluation of the judge is the third reason for PATIENCE. God will evaluate us. And the judge is standing before the door.....

(4C) Then, I would like you to notice in Vs 10 the fourth reason for PATIENCE.

And that is the experience of others. Vs 10 <sup>! we need</sup> says, "as an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we count those blessed who endured." "You have heard of the endurance of Job."

The "Prophets and Job." <sup>here</sup> Their experience is set before us as a reason for being PATIENT. NOW WHY IS THIS?

Because, as he says, inspite of their hardships, inspite of their difficulties, inspite of their <sup>Vs 10</sup> sufferings (By, the way, this is reffering to emotional distress...not physical suffering)

Can you imigine the emotional distress of a person who enters a <sup>city - New York</sup> nation and declared a message of distruction to that <sup>city</sup> nation? Let me tell you! That person would be critized...he would be called a religious NUT...He would be committed to the funny farm.....

That happened to many of the prophets. The O.T. gives us many examples. And these prophets suffered great emotional distress.....STANDING ALONE.... having to pronounce the judgment of God <sup>upon the</sup> ~~sons~~ <sup>sons</sup> of the people

And James says to consider the prophets...WHY? <sup>Vs 11</sup>..Because we count them happy who endure. You know, dear friends, there is one thing that I have noticed about this world inwhich we live....peoplle everywhere are basical unhappy.... Have you noticed that?.....People are unhappy with themselves...with their jobs.....unhappy with people they know....their friends....their families.... People are basaiical unhappy.

And the Bible says that even a person who is standing alone and endures suffering....YET, HE WAS HAPPY....He was at peace with himself and the Lord. <sup>James</sup> ~~Oh, my friends,~~ be patient....consider the experiences of others because the individual who experiences the hardships of life is often the one who is the most happy. WHY? Because that person is the one who has learned how TO TRUST GOD. He has learned that happiness does not lie in the things of this world....in our materialistic possessions. ~~But, he has learned that happiness is more than "~~

But, he has learned that happiness is more than not "having trouble." Happiness is having that consistent joy inside of you inspite of the storms around you and all the troubles we must face.

Vs 11.."We count them happy who have endured because the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful."

My friends, God is full of compassion and mercy. He wants to save us and change us and give us the happiness our hearts desire. And all He ask is that we believe in Christ. To believe that Jesus took my plae and paid for my sins. That I have no other hope save that of Jesus Christ.

Dear Friends, would you believe in Jesus, right now? Our Lord is full of Compassion and is merciful. He loves you and He wants you to come to Him. And I pray you will do that today.

And dear christians, be patient - the Lord is coming. And live in expentecy of His soon return by being different than those who are not Christian Living and sharing together without complaint. WHY? Because the Lord is standing at the door.

#### LET'S CLOSE IN PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, we thank you for the wonderful news that Jesus is coming again. What hope it brings to our lives. What hope it brings to the pressures of this life. Our Father, we know that Jesus could come today. Oh, that we might be ready to meet him. Lord Jesus, we thank you for the wonderful news in your Word that you are full of compassion and mercy. And we thank you for the grace which saves us.

And we pray this in Jesus name...Amen