

James 5:7-12

Week 11

Dec. 1, 2020

James was addressing the suffering saints when he wrote “Be patient.” This was his counsel at the beginning of his letter (1:1-5), and his counsel as his letter came to a close. God is not going to right all the wrongs in this world until Jesus returns, and we believers must patiently endure- and expect.

How can we experience this kind of patient endurance as we wait for the Lord to return? James gave three examples of patient endurance.

I. The _____ (5:7-9)

- He is patient with the _____.
- He is patient with the _____.
- Why does he willingly wait so long?
 - Because the _____ is _____. (5:7)
(Gal. 6:9)
- A secret of endurance when the going gets tough:
 - God is _____ a _____ in our lives.
 - He wants the _____ of the _____ to grow! (Gal. 5:22-23)

II. The _____ (5:10)

What encouragement do we receive from their example?

- They were in the _____ of _____ yet still _____.
- Satan tries to convince us that our suffering is a result of _____ or _____.
- Sometimes it is _____ of _____.

III. _____ (5:11-12)

“We count as blessed those who have endured.” (5:11)

- When do _____ come?
 - Sometimes in the _____ of _____.
- James teaches that there is a _____ we have endured!
- Job _____ what was going on behind the scenes.
- One _____ of _____ is to _____.
- If _____ are a test of character, then _____ indicate that there is still more work to be done!

James wanted to encourage us to be patient in times of suffering. Like the farmer, we are waiting for a spiritual harvest, for fruit that will glorify God. Like the prophets, we look for opportunities for witness, to share the truth of God. And, like Job, we wait for the Lord to fulfill His loving purpose, knowing that He will never cause His children to suffer needlessly. And, like Job, we shall have a clear vision of the Lord and come to know Him better for having been in the furnace of affliction. “Be patient, for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh!”