

Pure Religion
Patiently Waiting – James 5:7-11
May 13, 2018

You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. - **James 5:8**

I. WE ARE A “WAITING” PEOPLE

- James returns to his letter’s opening idea: patience and steadfastness under affliction (James 1:2-4, 12).
- Here, for James, the affliction is not so much from outward pressure, but from inward weakness—the inclination to use the tongue for grumbling and rash oaths (vss. 9, 12).
- Present things will soon become past things. Jesus is coming (vss. 7, 8, 9; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; 2 Pet. 3:1-13).
- Although we, as believers, wait patiently with hope, we need to be reminded that we too will be judged for our actions (vs. 9; Dan. 12:1-4; Matt. 25:31-46; 1 Pet. 1:6-7; 4:17; Rev. 20:12).

II. SUFFERING IS REAL—STEADFASTNESS IS CALLED FOR

- Two examples are offered: the prophets of old, and Job (Job 1:20-21; Heb. 11:32-40; 1 Pet. 1:10-12).
- Suffering is real, and sometimes the result not of sin, but of God’s plan for our lives. Nevertheless, he is compassionate and merciful (vs. 11; Ps. 103:13; Eccl. 7:14).
- Wait on the Lord. He loves you, and he knows what is best (Ps. 27:13-14).

KNOW: Christ is returning. Waiting on that day requires patience and endurance.

DO: Practice patience. Continue to live lives that honor the Lord.

Recommended Reading:

These Last Days: A Christian View of History (available in the LifePoint Library)

Coming Home: Essays on the New Heaven & New Earth

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read James 5:7-11

1. What seems to be James’s overall theme in this section?
2. How does “do not grumble” in vs. 9 relate to this theme?
3. James, like Jesus, uses agricultural metaphors to make his point. Why do you think he and Jesus do that?
4. In what way does “judgment” relate to Jesus’ return?
5. Why is patience such an important theme for Christ-followers?
6. In what ways are you heeding James’s teaching here to patiently await Christ’s return? In what ways could you improve?
7. What is one takeaway that you can apply to your life from our passage for Sunday?