

PATIENCE

Text: James 5:7-11

INTRO: The book of James was written to Jewish Christians in the first century A.D., 1:1. They were suffering persecution & indignity at the hands of their non-believing Jewish brethren, 5:1-6. Their Lord, the ultimate JUST ONE, had been murdered by the Jewish elite. It is no wonder that His servants were also being mistreated, John 15:20.

James writes to console & comfort the faithful Christians, admonishing them to practice patience in the midst of adversity.

I. JUDGMENT/JUSTICE IS COMING, vs. 7-9.

A. Be Patient.

1. Active: Keep doing good.
2. Passive: Keep enduring whatever you have to endure.

B. The destruction of Jerusalem would soon vindicate Jesus & His followers.

C. A righteous judgment also looms before us.
Acts 17:30-31

II. IF THE FARMER CAN WAIT FOR THE HARVEST, GOD'S SERVANTS CAN WAIT TO BE VINDICATED, vs. 7-8.

The Jewish year began in the autumn. The early rain came in late fall, & was needed before the farmer could prepare the soil for planting. The latter rain came in the spring.

Until the coming of the latter rain, the farmer could not expect his fields to be productive.

III. DO NOT LET SATAN OR HIS SERVANTS TURN YOU AGAINST YOUR OWN BRETHREN, vs. 9.

NOTE: Grumbling, murmuring, complaining can cause you to lose patience, can try the patience of others. Patience needs to be encouraged, not defeated.

IV. THE PROPHETS HAVE SET AN EXAMPLE OF PATIENTLY SUFFERING PERSECUTION, vs 10, 11a.

READ MATTHEW 23:29-31, 37-39

READ HEBREWS 11:35b-38

V. NOTE HOW PATIENCE PAID OFF FOR JOB, vs 11. He endured financial loss, loss of family, loss of his health. He was falsely accused by his friends. His reputation suffered. Even his wife advised him to curse God & die. And he had no idea why all this was happening to him.

READ JOB 42:10-17

CONCLUSION: As the Hebrew writer says in Heb. 10:36-37 (KJV), "Ye have need of patience, that after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise, for yet a little while, & He that shall come will come..."

1. We need to be patient in well-doing. Keep on keeping on.

2. We need to be patient with each other.

3. We need to be patient in the face of opposition. Put up with whatever we have to put up with, without giving up the struggle. Like the prophets. Like Job. Like Jesus.

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, July 21, 1996