

Patient Endurance and the Coming of the Lord
James 5:7-12

I. Introduction

- A. James began with the theme of endurance and now he ends with it.
 - 1. James 1:2-4 – the testing of our faith produces patient endurance!
 - 2. Now, James charges us to endure patiently.

II. Proposition

- A. As Christians, we are to endure patiently until the return of Christ (5:7-8a)!
 - 1. Command: Be patient until the coming of the Lord (5:7a)!
 - a. ILLUS: The patient farmer (5:7b).
 - 2. Command restated: You also be patient (5:8a)!
- B. Question: How are we to endure patiently until Christ's return?
 - 1. That's what James helps us to understand.

III. Exposition

- A. **We are to endure patiently by setting our hope on Christ and His return (5:8).**
 - 1. Command: Establish your hearts!
 - a. What does it mean to establish your hearts?
 - 1). See Luke 9:51 – Jesus “set” his face to go to Jerusalem.
 - 2). See 1 Thessalonians 3:2-3, 11-13
 - b. Grounds: The coming of the Lord is near!
 - 1). This is also the basis for encouragement in the book of Revelation.
 - 2. How do we establish or strengthen our hearts?
 - a. By setting our hope on the truth that the God who saves us will also keep us until the end (1 Peter 5:6-11).
 - b. Past grace becomes the grounds for present and future trust in God (2 Corinthians 1:8-10).
 - 3. In other words, we endure patiently by faith! Oh, to trust Him more!
 - a. This means we must be a people of the Word and know His promises.
 - 1). Both in the private devotions and in public worship.
 - b. This means that we must be a people of prayer and make great requests of God!
- B. **We are to endure patiently in holy living until Christ returns (5:9, 12).**
 - 1. Again, this is nothing new for James, for James has been concerned with an obedience of faith that flows from a new heart and expresses itself in love.
 - a. Like Paul (Galatians 5:6), James is concerned for a faith that works through love.
 - 2. Command 1: Do not murmur against one another (5:9)!
 - a. Reason: So you won't be judged.
 - 3. Command 2: Do not swear by anything (5:12)!
 - a. Reason: So you won't be judged!
 - 4. In other words, James wants to exhort us to keep on keeping on lest we give up and fall away.
 - a. Hebrews 6:9-12 (verses 1-8 is an exhortation not to fall away-explain perseverance).
 - b. One way we endure is by encouraging one another to endure - Hebrews 10:19-27
 - 1). This is the purpose of the corporate assembly (Colossians 1:27-29)

2). This is the purpose of assembling in small groups where you fulfill all the one another passages and an Ephesians 4, ministry.

C. We are to endure patiently by taking up the example of the faithful who have gone before us (5:10-11).

1. Remember the prophets (5:10-11a).
 - a. ILLUS: Hebrews 11 – 12:1-2
2. Remember Job (5:11b-d).
 - a. Consider God's purpose: to show tender compassion and mercy!
 - 1). The purpose of the Lord: His glory, your joy!
3. ILLUS: Doru and the letter to dictator Ceaucescu!
4. The value of reading Christian biography!

IV. Conclusion

A. What will happen when Christ returns?

1. For those who follow Christ and endure patiently to the end, Jesus will be the coming Lord who brings salvation (James 5:11a; 1:12).
2. For those who do not follow Christ and do not endure patiently to the end, Jesus will be the coming judge who brings condemnation.

B. So what will you do?

1. Christian, keep looking to Christ and keep the faith, for Jesus is coming soon!
 - a. Hebrews 12:3-17!!!
2. Those who call themselves Christians but are characterized by the world, turn away from your sin and return to Christ.
 - a. James 4:7-10
3. Those who do not follow Christ, turn away from the things of this world and turn to Christ who will be your greatest treasure.

C. What are you waiting for? There is an urgency to this wake up call!

1. "The coming of the Lord draws near" (5:8).
 - a. This is good news for the Christian who hopes in Christ and His return.
2. However, for the one who does not follow Christ, "the judge is standing at the door" (5:9).

© 2007 High Pointe Baptist Church and Pastor Juan Sanchez - 12030 Dessau Rd, Austin Texas 78754

Permissions: You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided that you do *not* alter the wording in any way, you do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction, and you do not make more than 1,000 physical copies. For web posting, a link to this document on our website is preferred. Any exceptions to the above must be explicitly approved by High Pointe Baptist Church.

Please include the following statement on any distributed copy: By Juan Sanchez. © 2007 High Pointe Baptist Church. Website: <http://www.hpbcglobal.org> Email: info@hpbcglobal.org. Phone: 512.837.7725.