



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Be Patient and Persevering

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The Epistle of James' (AD 45-50) likely author was James, the half-brother of Jesus Christ, a humble man, the leader of the Jerusalem church and the leader of the Council of Jerusalem. While James is addressing the twelve tribes that had scattered to all parts of the world and attempts to be encouraging to the believing Jews who were struggling with trials and tribulations, he confronts the issue of the testing and fruit of a faithful Christian's walk and the wise Godly righteous reactions of him when grounded in total faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers will battle the enemies of the world, their flesh and Satan (3:15). Wisdom's foundation is either from man or from God and people will need to make a choice. James challenges the believers to be patient "for the coming of the Lord is near." (James 5:7-11 NASB)

"Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord." (5:7a)

Believers are to keep their focus on Christ and His return and not dwell on their trials, tribulations and problems with other people. James attempts to be encouraging to the poor and suffering believers then and today and uses three illustrations to further explain the results of a living faith believer through being patient. Those examples are the farmer, the judge and Job.

"The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near." (5:7b)

The reward of being patient does not happen overnight. Patience is not defined as idly sitting by and doing nothing, but can be viewed as longsuffering or enduring. Believers are to fight the battles, suffer through the troubles, burdens and problems of life and be about serving God where He places us and do all this until Christ comes. Early Christians lived with an expectation that Christ return was expected and very near; all believers with a living faith should live their lives with an expectation that Christ's return is near. Just like the farmer who plants the seed and cultivates the soil, he does not reap the harvest the next day, but must wait for the Lord to water, heat and grow the produce prior to the farmer enjoying the harvest. Paul said, "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary." (Gal 6:9)

"Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door." (5:7-9)

Believers are not to judge. Much complaining and dissatisfaction existed between people in the early church, as it does today, and believers are told not to judge one another regarding their hearts and motives, because there is only one Lawgiver and Judge, God. (4:12)

"Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God." (1Co 4:5)

God sees all and knows all and is "standing right at the door". The third illustration was Job.

"As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful." (5:10-11)

The patience of Job. James speaks of OT believers and the suffering and patience that they endured in the name of the Lord and the blessings that they received as a result of their endurance. Specifically mentioned is the endurance or the patience of Job. Job was, "a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." (Job 1:8). Job faithfully suffered and was subsequently rewarded for his faithfulness by enduring and patiently serving God.

The faithful of the OT, NT and today are to be patient, persevering and enduring even when there is no rational or theological explanation for trouble, tribulation, pain, or disaster. Christians with a living faith will trust God to see them through those times and ultimately provide them with His compassion and mercy.

Do you have faithful patience, endurance or longsuffering that God will see you through tough times?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44