



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

PATIENT WITH ONE ANOTHER!- JAMES 5:9

COLORADO

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If our Lord's coming is near...that means it could happen any day. We wait on Jesus Christ to return as surely as the farmer waits on the early and late rains. We wait with eager anticipation of His coming with our hearts set, resolved, determined, fixed on the harvest like the farmer with patience, longsuffering knowing our troubles are temporary and will end. We must remember that the outcomes of our service to the Lord are in His hands, and we must be fixed with firm commitment, courage and resolve on the course set before us!

Paul wrote in Romans 8:18, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us." Instead of being shaken in any way by the troubles and difficulties we face, stand firm and immovable, being confident in His perfect plan and purpose for our life. We must stay the course no matter how severe the trial and shore up our hearts with the sure hope that Christ's certain return that is near.

PATIENT WITH ONE ANOTHER!-JAMES 5:9

James 5:9-10-"Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged, behold, the Judge is standing right at the door."

James 5:7-8 calls on believers to be patient and encouraged because Christ is coming and in spite of the opposition, oppression and injustices, we must maintain and strengthen an attitude of long suffering forbearance in this life as we wait on God to fulfill His purpose through them. He will judge the world. And now, in James 5:9, James emphasizes the fact that Christ is coming and He will also judge the believer. This truth must bring about a sobering reality for believers as a caution to be patient with one another through trials.

I. CHRIST IS COMING AND WILL JUDGE BELIEVERS -JAMES 5:9

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

A. "DO NOT COMPLAIN AGAINST ONE ANOTHER" – JAMES 5:9A

James calls on us to cherish the family and fellowship of the people among whom He has placed us. When our tongues disrupt that fellowship by complaining against one another, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Judge when He returns for us, will bring every aspect of our lives and service under review. One of which will be the tongue which we know can so easily bring division and harm. ¹

"complain+Greek %sterazete" meaning sigh or groan. This describes an internal, resentful spirit towards another, an attitude.

This word is primarily referring to the inner feeling of dissatisfaction and personal irritation at one another rather than the expression of a loud and bitter complaint. It involves a feeling of criticism and fault directed against others. It becomes evident in a smoldering resentment that can display itself in an antagonistic expression of bitter groans.² When James says, "Do not complain", the present imperative used indicates that such grumbling against fellow believers, "brethren", is presently taking place and must be stopped. And we know that grumbling against those who are close to us is more likely to occur when we are under pressure or facing hard circumstances.

We might vent on those in our own family when pressure is great in our job or life and we can easily do this same thing towards one another as fellow believers. James is concerned that we might turn our frustrations on one another. And so James reminds us that we need to be patient not just with the circumstances of suffering but we must also be patient with one another. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 4:2 that we are to bear with one another in love. Clearly living with difficult circumstances and oppression can cause believers to become frustrated, lose patience and complain against one another.³ You might relate to the following poem whose author is unknown:

To walk above with saints we love,
That will indeed be glory.
To walk below with saints we know...
Well, that's another story.

When James uses the word "against", this preposition shows that the complaining is directed, "down on" or against fellow believers, who are not responsible for their trying circumstances. This warning is against the human tendency when subjected to oppression and injustice, to give way to unjustly lashing out against those near and dear. By using the word "brethren", James stresses the incongruity of such a reaction against one another.⁴ And then James adds a reason.

B."THAT YOU YOURSLEVES MAY NOT BE JUDGED" – JAMES 5:9B

James 5:9b-"Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged..."

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

Colorado

PATIENT WITH ONE ANOTHER!– JAMES 5:9

James is reminding believers that all such complaining against one another is sin and as such evokes God's judgment. Because such attitudes violate the commands of God (Matthew 7:1, Luke 6:37), we will be held accountable to God for these actions. This should be a powerful motive for not complaining against one another.

C. "BEHOLD, THE JUDGE IS STANDING AT THE DOOR"– JAMES 5:9

James 5:9–"Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged, behold, the Judge is standing right at the door."

James has previously exhorted believers in James 5:7-8 to be encouraged that the coming of the Lord is a time of judgment on the wicked who oppress. But here, James also reminds believers that Christ's coming will also include a serious assessment of their own behavior.

"Behold", refers to the fact that there is an imminence of judgment. God our heavenly Judge is fully aware of the relationships among believers. "The Judge", refers Jesus Christ and His position is already "standing right at the door" which literally means "before the door". The picture is of Christ Who is just about to push the doors open and enter the judgment hall. There is a certainty and imminence to James words. So the nearness of the coming Judge should be both a comfort and a warning to believers in any circumstance. Gaebelien reminds us that "It is a shallow kind of Christianity that, seeing only God's grace in the Gospel forgets inevitable judgment."⁵

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is not only a judgment of sinners/unbelievers, but also a warning for us to examine our own hearts and behavior because the coming of Jesus Christ will also be a judgment of believers. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10 says, "Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

We will stand one by one before our Lord and give an account for our attitudes and actions. The coming of Christ is a time of hope and a time of judgment and as believers, we must not forget that.

James makes it clear. "Do not complain against one another that you yourselves may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing right at the door."

The judgment James refers to for believers will not be a judgment on the believers' sin and our eternal destiny because Jesus Christ took care of that on the cross. But it will be a determination on our rewards. 1 Corinthians 3:11-14 says, "For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward."

God will judge our lives as believers when He returns. James wants us to be encouraged by that certainty and warned by that reality as well. As believers, did we live to please Him? Are our words, our thoughts and our attitudes pleasing to God, regardless of how hard and oppressive life can be? Are we patient with our words and attitudes toward one another no matter what life brings our way?

Jesus Himself said in Revelation 22:12, "Behold, I am coming quickly and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done."

Because of this sobering reality, James calls for patience with one another as believers where there is the temptation to be impatient. We must learn to cherish the family and fellowship of the people of God and not complain or grumble against one another. And we must remember that Jesus Christ will certainly return as Judge and will bring every aspect of our lives and service under review.

James 5:7-9 reminds believers that our troubles are temporary and will end. He encourages us to have a settling conviction that Christ will return and an understanding of this true and certain *future* reality will strengthen our hearts *now* in the present. This will not only bring comfort, but challenge to live our lives to please Him, knowing that His return is imminent and will include a serious assessment of our own behavior towards one another as fellow believers.

¹Motyer, J.A., *The Message of James*. InterVarsity: Downers Grove, Illinois, 1985. Pg.180-181.

²Hiebert, D. Edmond, *James*. Moody Bible Institute: Chicago, Illinois, 1992. Pg. 273.

³MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on James*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.257.

⁴Hiebert, D. Edmond, *James*. Moody Bible Institute: Chicago, Illinois, 1992. Pg. 274.

⁵Gaebelien, Frank E., *The Practical Epistle of James*. Great Neck, N.Y.:Doniger and Raughley, 1955.Pg.113.