

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

May 15, 2022

James: A Faith That Works Until the Coming of the Lord (James 5:7-12)

Today's text comes right after James' warnings to the rich, and how they "murdered the righteous" (6). He now turns back to his "brothers" who might be facing trials from those who are rich. To these he gives 6 imperatives (instructions), which we will look at in two groups:

E_____ to the F_____ L_____ (7-8)

1. _____ (7)
2. _____ (8)
3. _____ (8)

In these first three imperatives, James is calling on his readers to be patient and show endurance. However, this is NOT just a generic call for patience in any situation ... like being patient with your spouse, children, or coworkers. Or while standing in line or being forced to wait. James is talking about the entirety of life and pointing out that life is like a marathon, not a sprint. We must be patient and endure all the way to the finish line.

This finish line is looking forward to one event. That event is not anything that happens during the course of life. It's not even death. No, the finish line is "the coming of the Lord." This undoubtedly refers to the second coming of Christ (**Acts 1:10-11; Heb 9:27-28**), which is referred to over 300 times in the New Testament and will be the true end even beyond death (**1 Thess 4:13-18**). Some may say the apostles believed they would be living when the Lord returned, but they did not know any more about the time of His return than we do (**Matt 24:36**). Because they did not know when he would come, they instructed people to live as if he would come at any moment (**1 Thess 5:1-11**), just as Christ had instructed (**Matt 24:42; Mark 13:33**).

So, James is calling on the brethren to keep their eyes focused on one thing, the second coming of Jesus. He is telling them to wait for His return patiently, and to strengthen their hearts to endure all the trials they will face while they wait. And this patience and endurance will be worth it. Remember what James said way back in Chapter 1:12: "*Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God*

*Always be prepared
TO GIVE AN answer
TO everyone WHO ASKS YOU
TO GIVE the reason FOR
the hope THAT YOU HAVE.
But do this WITH
gentleness
AND
respect*
1 PETER 3:15-16

*"I will praise You, O Lord,
with all my heart, And I will
glorify Your name
forevermore"*

Check us out on
facebook as
pleasantviewcoc for
upcoming sermon and
bible class topics

*God's eternal blessings
Flow down from above
To equip us in His mission
To spread His wondrous love
So He can always use us
And stretch us in our faith
So we may be a blessing
To others by His grace
For everything we need
God will graciously provide
Through His eternal blessings
That are abundant in our lives*

has promised to those who love him.” Paul also had similar words of encouragement in his letter to the **Romans (8:18; 12:14-21)**.

S_____ on C_____ (9-12)

For these last three imperatives, James is providing two warning signs that we are veering off- course and not living with the type of patience and endurance he has prescribed.

4. _____ (9)

We’re not showing the kind of Christian patience that he’s calling for in verses 7 and 8 if we’re grumbling against the brethren (**Phil 2:14-16**). It is so tempting when things are not going well with us to lash out at others, even our brothers and sisters in Christ. James is saying, don’t let the Lord walk in the door while you are criticizing your brethren.

5. _____ (12) 6. _____ (12)

These last two imperatives are the second warning that we might be going off course, but it may seem like they’re not related to what James has been talking about. James is talking about living the Christian life with a focal point on the coming of the Lord. What does oath taking have to do with this?

The imperative to “Do not swear” comes from the Jewish practice of taking oaths by different things (e.g., heaven or earth), and their level of truthfulness was determined by the relative holiness of the object of the oath. James’ words here are very similar to those of his brother in the Sermon on the Mount (**Matt 5:34-37**). Instead of taking this type of oath, James says to speak simply and let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no. Consider the oaths Peter took about how faithful he was going to be to Jesus on the last night of His life, and then the subsequent oaths he took swearing he did not know who Jesus was (**Matt 26:30-35, 69-75**). James is saying that in the Christian life, patience and endurance is not manifested by grand promises, but by quiet talk that follows through.

PRAYER LIST

- **Kristine Garrett** got very positive news from her cancer scans Tuesday
- Sympathy for the family of **Vicki Roberts** who passed away Sunday afternoon
- **John Hayes** had cataract surgery Tuesday
- **Nick Phifer's** stem cell transplant is scheduled for the 18th, and his mother will be the donor.
- **Isabel Johnson** is at home recovering from a stem cell transplant.
- **Faye Waller** is in Ahava Healthcare in Clarksville
- **James Craig** is home undergoing rehab
- Continue to pray for **Delores Coleman, Ann Reed, Rosemary Douglas, Gaynell Walker, Rebecca Brown, and Jim Sims**

SERVING TODAY (May 15, 2022)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Read: J. Gupton
Prayer: E. Walker

WORSHIP

Read: M. Reed
Wait On Table: D. Billingsley
Serve: D. Demonbreun, J. Buchanan
Prayer: J. Baker