

The Book of James

James 5:8-11

We want to continue our study, once again, today with the book of James chapter 5. Last time we left off with verse 7, and we looked at that verse and it says, *Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.*

Now, as I said the last time, this verse is telling us to endure until the Lord comes, and it talks about considering the farmer who waits, and that's the husbandman. Consider the farmer who waits for a harvest.

In Galatians 6:9, it says, *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.* I believe that for every Christian there comes a time in our lives when we get discouraged and we seem to get into the doldrums, if you would, and James is telling us here, "Look, the Lord is coming soon." We need to be on top of the world. We need to understand that we have to be patient for the coming of the Lord. You notice there in that verse it talks about the coming of the Lord, James 5:7.

And he says because of this, in verse 8, *Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.* Persevere like the farmer, he's telling us. Stand firm. He says establish your hearts, stand firm, and Jesus is coming soon.

Well, as I look into the Word of God, I find several verses that deal with the coming of the Lord. In Psalm chapter 47:1, it says, *O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.* And then we keep on reading down and in verse 5 of Psalm 47, it

says, *God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.*

Now, if you read in the book of Acts chapter 1, you'll see how that the Lord went up in the clouds and there were those people standing by who saw this take place, but there were also some angels standing by, some men, if you would, representing God, and they said, "Why stand ye here gazing up? This same Jesus which is taken up from you shall in like manner come again."

Well, we read in Psalm 47 how that Jesus had gone up just as He went up in Acts chapter 1. In other words, we would say that that is a prediction or a prophecy that Jesus would be going up and He would be seated at the right hand of God, and we see that taking place there in the book of Acts chapter 1.

But in I Thessalonians 4:16, it says, *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.*

This, of course, is speaking of the rapture of the church, and if you'll go back and compare Psalm 47, you'll see how that He ascended... He went up... and how in I Thessalonians 4:16 how that He is going to descend. He's coming back in the clouds.

And the Bible teaches me that Jesus is coming back with a shout, and I believe He's going to say, "Come up hither," and then the dead in Christ shall rise first, and if you keep reading in I Thessalonians 4, you'll see how the dead rise first, but then we which are alive and remain

shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to be forever with the Lord.

And I believe that's what James is trying to get across to the people he's writing to in that present day and time he lived, but how much closer today is the Lord than he was then? How much closer is His coming now than it was when James penned these words down? He was trying to comfort these people. He says, "Look, don't be weary in well doing." He says, "Don't give up. You need to persevere."

And today, as a child of God, we need to keep on keeping on. We need to let this world know that we have trusted Jesus Christ as our Savior and that He's coming back soon to take us to be with Him in glory, and because of that, we need to let other people know about it and let them know that Jesus loves them.

Chapter 4 of I Thessalonians, that chapter ends in verse 18. It says, *Wherefore comfort one another with these words.* We need to comfort one another as Christians that Jesus is coming soon.

Well, James 5:9 says, *Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.* I believe what James is saying here, "Don't resent others." Do not resent others. Don't have hard feelings or that you will judge other people. Don't resent others so you will not be judged, according to part of that verse: *Brethren, lest ye be condemned...or judged.* The judge is near. Once again, James is letting us know that Jesus is near, that His coming is near.

In Revelation 4:1, it says, *After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me...* There's the word "trumpet" again... *which said, Come*

up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And I believe, once again, that verse, chapter 4 and verse 1 of Revelation, is speaking of none other than, not the Second Coming but the rapture of the Lord.

Do not be confused with the Second Coming and the rapture of the Lord. The rapture will take place for those people who are saved during this day and time that we live. The Second Coming will take place when all people, both small and great, will see the Lord come back personally. They will see Him coming back, but it's sad that those people who have not trusted Jesus at that time, the Bible tells us that they are going to go against the Lord. There's going to be a great war. Of course, I don't call it a war because the Lord will destroy them with the sword of His mouth. And those people will not have a chance. That's the reason that people need to trust Jesus Christ today as Lord and Savior.

Verse 10 of James chapter 5: *Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.* James is carrying on the thought here. Look, we're going to have problems in this life. I believe he's trying to tell us this, and people were going through a difficult time evidently, as James was speaking and writing these words. We're going to have difficult times, but we need to look at examples that were set for us in the Word of God and in church history as we look back.

And James is saying here in verse 10, remember the prophets. Remember that many of the prophets gave their lives for the testimony of the Lord. Now, today, you and I are not called upon to give our lives, to lay our lives down for the Lord. I say you and I because I'm speaking primarily to folks who have never suffered the great consequence of proclaiming the name of Jesus. In other words, you've not

suffered unto death. You've not laid your life down. God has not asked you to do that yet. It may come to that; we don't know. I do know that there are people today who are suffering for the Lord, and there are some who have laid their lives down during our day and time. They've laid their lives on the line for the Lord and they've actually suffered death. We think of those people and we call that the persecuted church, those individuals who are standing up for the Lord, proclaiming the Gospel that Jesus saves.

Well, in James 5:10, James says, "Remember the prophets who spoke with the authority of the Lord and their example is one of suffering, affliction, and perseverance," and there's that idea once again of persevering, of not giving up, but keep on keeping on. And that's what you and I need to do today. Whatever comes into our lives, we need to understand that people have bled and died that you and I could stand today and proclaim the Word of God, and especially our Lord. He bled and He died that you and I could see Heaven one day and that we could see Him personally and that we could talk with Him personally. And because of that, we're to persevere until He either comes back in the clouds and says, "Come up hither," or until this body gives out and it's laid in the ground. We need to keep on keeping on.

I believe at the same time when this body is laid in the ground I believe we're going to see the Lord immediately as saved people. We go into the presence of the Lord. The Bible says to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

Verse 11 of James chapter 5 says: *Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.* He says, "Look, we consider those who persevere as joyful. Count

it all joy." James 1:2, once again, says, *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.* When something comes into your life that is there to cause you trouble, we're to take joy in that because God has saved us and we understand that He's saved us, and the devil's going to throw everything he can at us to get us to quit. But we need to keep on keeping on.

James goes on to say, "You know about Job." His perseverance turned into happiness because of the Lord. In Job 42:10, it says, *And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. Job 42:12 says, So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.*

Somebody has said that you never read Job to be inspired or to get built up. Well, I disagree with that. I believe, if you read the entire book of Job, you find out that Job went through terrible sufferings, but at the end he ended up with twice as much as he had in the beginning. He persevered, and he stayed true to the Lord.

How about you today? Are you persevering for the Lord? Are you staying true to the Lord as a saved person? You need to be proclaiming, "Jesus Christ saves," to every person that you come into contact with. You need to let people know that Jesus has saved you and that, yes, one day you're going to be with Him. And then you can share with them the good news that Jesus bled and died on the cross of Calvary so that they too could be saved, for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Share your good experience with those people around you. Share that good news, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, how that He saves.

If you've never trusted Christ as your Savior, why not do that today. Ask Him to come into your heart.

It's been good being with you today, and let me invite you to tune in once again at this same time next week when you'll hear me say, "It's a good life." But in the meantime, let me invite you to look at our Website, www.LRWM.org. On the Website you'll be able to download this program and other programs of "It's a Good Life" and also transcripts of this program.

Until the next time, may the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.