

James 5:7-12

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Verse 7: “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.” James (in contrast to the sinful rich men discussed in previous verses) describes the faithful as needing to have patience while waiting on the Lord’s return. Many people have grown weary waiting on the Lord’s return, oftentimes excusing away their immorality because they assume the Lord isn’t coming. Peter characterizes these sinful people as follows: “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation” (2 Pet. 3:3-4).

But rest assured, the Lord WILL return, and when He does, it will be like a thief in the night (that is, unexpectedly, 1 Thes. 5:2)! “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord **will come** as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Pet. 3:8-10, emphasis mine, TCG).

Verse 8: “Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” Again, the coming of the Lord is a certainty. Thus, Christians must patiently persevere through our various trials as the day approaches.

Verses 9-10: “Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.” The Greek word translated as “grudge” here has to do with murmuring, groaning, or sighing with grief (Strong’s). Murmuring/complaining against one another is a sin (e.g. Num. 14:29). Certainly the prophets, speaking on behalf of the Lord, endured vehement murmuring, but they serve as an example of patience, suffering affliction as they remained faithful to the Lord.

Verse 11: “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.” Job is one of the most well known examples of a righteous man who suffered terrible affliction at the hands of the Devil, but Job remained steadfast through it all. The Lord pitied Job’s situation, and in the end restored unto him everything that he had **TWOFOLD** (Job 42:10). Job’s end was certainly better than his beginning, and the same will be true for us if we remain faithful unto death.

Verse 12: "But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation." The world elevates oaths/swears/promises above "regular truth," as if the oath/swear/promise is somehow MORE truthful than "regular truth." The Bible makes no such distinction, and neither should Christians. Truth is truth, and lies are lies. Everything that a Christian speaks should be truth; thus, he has no need to call his affirmations by the worldly terms "swear," "oath," or "promise." See also Mat. 5:33-37.