

Pt 15 James Series (Faith Made Perfect) – Patience

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney 05-20-2018

‡ James 5:7-12

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.

8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

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.

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.

How many in here tonight can raise your hand, truthly, and say that you are a patient person. Come on, get those hands up, we don't have all night! 😊

I think it is safe to say that most people do not have as much patience as they would like to have. We live in a fast-moving world and we have fast moving expectations. How many of you remember internet when all we had was dial-up? You had to connect your phone line to the computer in order to surf the internet. And that was high-tech stuff back then too! Nearly everybody had America Online. I can still hear those modem sounds it would make when you would sign on. You could hit the enter button and walk away, fix a sandwich, come back and maybe it would be ready to use.

Nowadays if we don't have at least 7 Meg per second we are living in the stone age. Our phones have to have at least a 4G network and 10 Meg per second or we're throwing that thing out the window!

How many in here like to stand in lines? I used to be a line jumper. I thought if another line looked shorter that I could go over and get in it and get through faster. NOPE! Something will go wrong every time you do that.

In our opening text James says something that goes against every fiber of my being: He says "Be patient." Just reading those words makes me anxious.

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.

We must remember that James is writing to a Jewish audience. These folks have been under heavy persecution by the Roman government and also by unbelieving Jews. They have scattered in different directions of the globe, especially after Rome was burned and Nero blamed it on the Christians.

So, naturally these folks were looking for Jesus to return and make everything right. They were expecting any day for him to come back and take them from all of the trials, turmoil, and persecution they were under. But he hadn't come yet. So, James is trying to help these folks concerning the Lord's return.

His call is for them to "**be patient.**"

Last week I was running slightly late for work and I got to the end of Babelay Rd. and there were so many cars on Washington Pike that it looked like Thanksgiving traffic. I mean they were lined up as far as the eye could see going both directions. I started praying and the first thing I said was "**Lord give me patience,**" and then I quickly said "**no, scratch that, help me deal with this traffic.**" If there is one thing I've learned over the years is to be very careful when you pray for patience. You may not like the way the LORD teaches it to you.

Then James uses the example of a husbandman, which is another name for a farmer. It is someone who grows crops. He says **the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.** Growing up we planted a large garden behind our house and also up on the hill behind my papaw's house. We always planted our taters in the garden behind the house. I can remember waiting on those things to come up so we could go out there and dig some up and eat them. Ain't nothing better than a big homegrown potato. Sometimes I would go out there and pull a plant up and dig down hoping they were ready only to find small green potatoes. But my dad was always patient. He would wait until it was time and then we would harvest the vegetables.

These Jews in James' day had to be patient because there wasn't anything they could do to make it rain. The climate in that area depended on two rainy seasons. There was the "**early rains,**" which would come **in the fall** and there was the "**latter rains,**" which would come **in the Springtime.** These husbandman had to be patient and wait on these rains. James is telling these folks that they are to be like the husbandman that are waiting on the latter rains, very patient. He says in the next verse: **8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.**

While they are being patient and waiting upon the LORD they are to "**stablish**" their hearts. That means that they are to be **steadfast** and stand firm in their faith of the Lord Jesus. They are to do what the Apostle Paul told the Church at Corinth:

1 Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

We too are in a waiting period today, waiting on the LORD. That doesn't mean we are to just sit idly by waiting to be taken out of here, we are to stablish our hearts in the faith. In other words, "**occupy the time.**"

A clear teaching of this is given by Jesus over in the Gospel of

Luke 19:11-27

11 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

12 He said therefore, **A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.**

13 **And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.**

14 **But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this *man* to reign over us.**

15 **And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom,**

then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, *here is* thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:

21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.

22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, *thou* wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:

23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give *it* to him that hath ten pounds.

25 (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)

26 For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

27 But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay *them* before me.

So, although we are to be watching for Jesus' return, He expects us to stay busy while we are waiting.

9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

That word "**Grudge**," as used here means to "**groan, murmur, complain, or be envious.**" James is telling these folks that in their patience of waiting the Lord's return they are not to grumble and complain about others that seem to have things better than they do and envy them. They are to continue living a life of faith and obedience. The Hebrew writer says it like this in **Hebrews 13:17** *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

That way of thinking is foreign to our flesh. Our flesh wants to complain at every trial and get jealous at those that seem to have it well off. I was talking to a man the other day that had all kinds of things going wrong in his life and he looked at me and said, "**Pastor, I just don't understand why Christians have to go through such things when those other people nothing ever happens to.**" I wish I had given him better advise but all I could think of to say was "Nobody understands the mind of God. His ways are much higher than our ways and his thoughts are much higher than ours." After he had already drove off I remembered the words of Jeremiah as he wept and said: **Lamentations 3:22-25** *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. 24 The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.*

25 The LORD *is* good unto them that wait for him, to the soul *that* seeketh him.

In the last part of verse 9 James reminds them of this: **behold, the judge standeth before the door.** We too need to remember that Jesus is near and he hears us.

Jesus himself said in. **Revelation 22:20b.** *Surely I come quickly.*

Which led the Apostle John to say: **Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

Then James reminds these Jewish believers of the Prophets of old. How they endured suffering affliction yet had patience.

I immediately think of Jeremiah the Prophet. Just as we studied through his life this past year, we saw he was mistreated. He was lied about, falsely imprisoned, lowered into a cistern to die, nearly starved to death, beaten, and even hated by his own family. Yet he endured for 40-years preaching the Word of the Lord.

Let's not forget what the Bible says about the Prophets over in

Hebrews 11:32-38 *And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:*

33 *Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,*

34 *Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*

35 *Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:*

36 *And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:*

37 *They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;*

38 *(Of whom the world was not worthy:;) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.*

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.**

Then James mentions Job and his patience. Job is the model of patience. We all know his story how the Lord allowed Satan to touch his family, his wealth, and his health but despite his suffering the Bible says that Job uttered these words: **Job 1:21-22** *And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. 22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.*

We know that after Job patiently endured the suffering that the Bible tells us:

Job 42:12a *So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning...*

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.**

† All Scripture from the Authorized King James Version