

How Shall We Live?

James 5:7-11

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

May 19, 2024

Introduction

- The long-term effects of the 9-11 terrorist attacks on us
- The danger of studying Biblical prophecy, of crying “wolf” and nothing happening can lull us into complacency.
- A brief review of the next prophetic events on God’s timetable.
- The stage is being set for end time events
- Does the soon coming of Christ move us to make concrete, sacrificial changes or is it business as usual?
- Throughout our study, we’ve emphasized the practical applications of studying Biblical prophecy.

How Shall We Live?

- James 5:7-11-- *“Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”*

A. General Introduction

1. **James is addressing the “brethren”,** that is, believers in Jesus Christ.
2. **These brethren are waiting “the coming of the Lord”.**
 - James 5:7-9--*“Therefore be patient, brethren, until **the coming of the Lord**. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, **for the coming of the Lord** is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, **the Judge is standing at the door!**”*

B. Specific Instructions

1. **Be PATIENT for the Harvest is Coming**
 - James 5:7-- *“Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.”*
 - a. **Definition of “Patience”**-- “long temper”, to think long, to wait for the future.
 - b. **An Example of “Patience”**-- the grain farmer
 - James 5:7b -- *“See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.”*
 - c. **The Application of “Patience” to the harvesting of souls**
 - 1) Evangelism is a process of planting, watering, and harvesting.
 - 1 Corinthians 3:6-- *“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase!”*

- 2) **Jesus Christ, the “harvester”, is patient.**
 - 2 Peter 3:9-- *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*
- 3) **The harvest comes at the “end of the age”.**
 - Matthew 13:39-- *“the harvest is at the end of the age.”*

2. Strengthen your Convictions and Commitments

- James 5:8-- *“You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”*
- a. **The “heart” is the spiritual control center from which we operate.**
 - 1) Sinful choices originate in the “heart”
 - Mark 7:21-23-- *“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”*
 - 2) The “heart” is the source of our life.
 - Proverbs 4:23-- *“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”*
 - b. **Due to external pressures and the second law of spiritual thermodynamics, we need to be constantly strengthening our convictions and commitments.**
 - c. *How do we strengthen our convictions and commitments?*
 - 1) **We do so in partnership...**
 - a) **With God**
 - 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13-- *“And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.”*
 - b) **In community with other believers.**
 - (1) Our love is to abound towards one another.
 - (2) We are not to grumble against others, but live in harmony
 - James 5:9-- *‘Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!’*
 - (3) We need one another to strengthen our convictions and commitments.
 - Hebrews 10:23-25-- *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”*
 - (4) The perils of isolation, of going at it alone without support from others.
 - 2) **We must commit ourselves to lives of holiness and purity.**
 - 2 Peter 3:11-12a-- *“Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God.*
 - 2 Peter 3:14-- *“Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless.”*
 - 1 John 3:2-3-- *“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”*

- 3) **Out of necessity, we need to guard our hearts.**
- 4) **We strengthen our convictions and commitments by practicing the spiritual disciplines.**
- 5) **We need to live out our convictions by the commitments that we have made.**

3. **Endure to the End. Keep on keeping on!**

- James 5:10-11-- *“My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”*
 - a. **The difference between “patience” and “endurance”**
 - 1) “Patience” is the attitude of bearing with one another, or with a situation.
 - 2) “Endurance” is the longitude, bearing with the situation or person for a period of time.
 - b. **Examples of Endurance**
 - 1) The Old Testament prophets refused to back down even in the face of death. Standing for God has never been popular but can result in persecution or even death.
 - 2) Job’s suffering was physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. He lost everything in life, but did not give up on trusting God. Job lived from the “inside out”.
 - 3) The Apostle Paul longed for heaven because of suffering he was experiencing.
 - Philippians 1:23-24-- *“For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.”*
 - a) In spite of longing for heaven, he is confident that remaining in his body would mean fruitful service.
 - Philippians 1:22a-- *“But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor.”*
 - Philippians 1:25-26-- *“And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.”*
 - b) As he neared the end of his life, he could say that he finished well.
 - 2 Timothy 4:6-8-- *“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”*