

JAMES #11 - PREPARE FOR THE LORD

JAMES 5:7-20

We are closer to His coming now than they were then. The Bible instructs us how to live while we are waiting and watching.

- I. WE ARE TO HAVE PATIENCE (vs.7-11) HEBREWS 10:36-37
 - A. This means "longsuffering" - leave in God's hands
 - 1. Christian character trait COL. 3:12
 - 2. It must be "put on" and "grown" GAL. 5:22-23
 - B. The illustration of the farmer - husbandman (vs. 7)
 - 1. Prepares soil, plants seed, waits for increase
 - 2. We must bear fruit and patiently wait for Jesus!
 - C. The example of the PROPHETS (vs. 10-11)
 - 1. Joseph: Pit/Potiphar/Prison/Palace/Premier
 - 2. Job: Satan/Servants/Sons/Sores/Scolding/Success
 - D. The example of a Christian Race (patience) HEB. 12:1-2

- II. WE ARE TO BE PURE IN SPEECH (vs. 12)
 - A. This is not a reference to court (swearing an oath)
 - 1. Some cults will not swear to tell the truth
 - 2. No one needs an oath - just tell the truth!
 - B. Do not take big oaths using the Lord's name EXO. 20:7
 - C. Jesus also spoke on this subject MATT. 12:34-37
 - 1. We studied in Ch. 4 about the tongue PSA. 39:1
 - 2. Do not to allow corrupt language 1 COR. 15:33

- III. WE ARE TO BE PRAYERFUL (vs. 13-18)
 - A. In times of suffering and sickness (vs. 13-15)
 - 1. Notice the procedure to follow
 - 2. Follow with every means at our disposal
 - 3. The LORD makes the medicine work!
 - B. We are to confess our faults (sins) and pray (vs. 16)
 - 1. This is a call for discrete accountability!
 - 2. Not a call to air dirty laundry in public!
 - C. This a testament to the power of prayer (vs. 17-18)
 - 1. Elias (Elijah) was an example
 - 2. Hezekiah prayed until the Lord 2 KINGS 20:1-5

- IV. WE ARE TO PERSISTENTLY RECLAIM BACKSLIDDERS (vs. 19-20)
 - A. This is an appeal to bring in those without
 - B. This is an appeal to convert (change) the wanderer
 - C. This is personal work - continued until Jesus comes!