

JAMES

GENUINE FAITH ON DISPLAY

LIVING TO PLEASE THE JUDGE

GENUINE FAITH IS PATIENT WITH GOD'S TIMING, PT. 3

JAMES 5:9

JAMES 5:1-6

¹ Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you.

² Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!

⁴ Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, *and* which has been withheld by you, cries out *against you*; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵ You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and put to death the righteous *man*; he does not resist you.

JAMES 5:7-11

⁷ Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. ⁸ You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹ Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

¹⁰ As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is* merciful.

JAMES 5:1-6: 3 DENUNCIATIONS AGAINST THE RICH

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Psalm 37

¹ Do not fret because of evildoers, be not envious toward wrongdoers. ² For they will wither quickly like the grass and fade like the green herb. . . .

⁷ Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. ⁸ Cease from anger and forsake wrath; Do not fret; *it leads* only to evildoing.

⁹ For evildoers will be cut off, But those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land. ¹⁰ Yet a little while and the wicked man will be no more; And you will look carefully for his place and he will not be *there*.



JAMES 5:7-11

THREE ENCOURAGEMENTS WHEN FACING SUFFERING

⁷ Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. ⁸ You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

1. **Be Patient, the Lord is Coming.**

⁹ Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

2. **Don't Complain, the Lord is Judge.**

¹⁰ As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

3. **Be Encouraged, the Lord is Compassionate.**

1. BE PATIENT, THE LORD IS COMING (V.7-8)

A. The Command for Patience

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord.

- **patience** – literally “long-tempered”

⇒ The self-restraint that keeps you from complaint, despair, or retaliation when provoked.

B. The Duration of Patience

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord.

⇒ It will be the end of suffering, sin, and trials!

⇒ It will be the beginning of rest, fellowship with Christ, and reunion with the saints!

C. The Illustration of Patience

The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.

- As farmers, we need to wait patiently.
- As farmers, we know that some things are outside of our control.
- As farmers, we too can trust in God's faithful provision.

D. The Means of Patience

You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

- We strengthen your hearts by feeding our soul with spiritual food – truth from God's Word. Most importantly, the truth that Christ's coming is imminent!

2. DON'T COMPLAIN, THE LORD IS JUDGE (V.9)

Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

- **brethren** – James is still addressing believers. This term not only expresses his affection for them but reminds them that they are part of one spiritual family.

⇒ **Do not complain against one another**

- **complain** – to groan, sigh, or grumble. This has the meaning of irritation or dissatisfaction with another person.
- **against one another** – it's believer against believer complaining in view here even though the main source of suffering is from the wicked rich.

⇒ **so that you yourselves may not be judged**

- **so that** – indicates the purpose or the reason we should not groan against other believers. . .

...so that you yourselves would not be judged!?!

- **James 4:12** — There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?
- **James 2:13-14** — So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of freedom. For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.
- **James 3:1** — Do not, many of you, become teachers, my brothers, knowing that we will receive a stricter judgment.
- **James 5:9** — Do not groan, brothers, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.
- **James 5:12** — But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your yes be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.



Six Realities of God's Judgment!

1. All people will face judgment (Heb. 9:27; Heb. 4:13; Rom. 14:10; Rom. 2:16).
 - **Hebrews 9:27** — And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.
 - **Romans 14:10** — But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.
- ⇒ **Therefore, each person should live in the fear of the Lord by obedience to His commands.**



2. Christ will be the Judge (John 5:22; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim 4:8).

- **John 5:22-23** — “For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father.”
- **Acts 17:30-31** — “... God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He determined, having furnished proof to all by raising Him from the dead.”

⇒ **Therefore, each person should honor Christ as God and Judge.**



3. Those without a saving knowledge of Christ will face judgment for their sins (Rom. 2:3-5; 2 Thess. 1:6-9; Rev 20:12-15; Matt. 13:41-42).

- **Romans 2:3–5** — But do you presume this, O man—who passes judgment on those who practice such things and does the same—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.

⇒ **Therefore, each person should repent from their sin to escape the coming wrath of God.**



4. **Those who have been forgiven by Christ will not face condemnation** (Rom. 8:1; John 5:24; Rom. 5:9-10; Rom. 8:33-34; Ps. 103:12; Is. 43:25; Heb. 8:12).
- **Romans 8:1** — Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
 - **John 5:24** — “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”
 - **Psalms 103:12** — As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.
- ⇒ **Therefore, every believer should rejoice for the saving work of Jesus Christ!**



5. Those who are saved can still face judgment in this world (1 Cor. 11:27-32; Heb. 12:4-11).

- **1 Corinthians 11:27–32** — Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.
- ⇒ **Therefore, each believer should live in obedience to the Lord lest we face His discipline.**



6. Those who are saved still face judgment in the future (2 Cor. 5:9-10; Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 1 John 2:28; 1 Pt. 1:17; 1 John 4:17–18; 2 John 8).

- **2 Corinthians 5:9-10** — Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
 - a) This passage is directed toward believers.
 - b) The venue of judgment is “the judgment seat.”
 - c) The judgment described here is described as the judgment seat of Christ.
 - d) The judgment is based on deeds while in the body.
 - e) The activity at the Bema Seat is to be “recompensed” for these deeds.
 - f) These deeds are, according to this passage, “either good or bad.”



1 Corinthians 3:10–15 — According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, **each man's work** will become evident, for the day will indicate it because it is revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If **any man's work** which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If **any man's work** is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

⇒ *Each person's work will be tested one day. It won't affect salvation – he himself will be saved – but he will suffer loss.*

2 John 8 — Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.

⇒ *Again, we see the possibility of losing your full reward.*

- One way that reward can be lost is impure motives (1 Cor. 4:5).



Two errors to avoid when considering the future judgment of believers

1. **Error #1: There is a possibility that God will punish the believer for sin.**
 - God has completely wiped away all sin for the believer (Ps. 103:2).
 - There is no condemnation for those in Christ (Rom. 8:1).
 - Christ's payment is complete (Heb. 10:12)!



All of your sins will not be shown on the big screen in heaven!



2. Error #2: The Bema Seat judgment will only include rejoicing.

James 5:9 — Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged.

1 John 2:28 — And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He is manifested, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

The real possibility of loss and even shame at the Bema Seat should cause us to live with a healthy fear of God!

1 Peter 1:17 — And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your sojourn.

Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 — The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.





The judgment seat of Christ might be compared to a commencement ceremony. At graduation there is some measure of disappointment and remorse that one did not do better and work harder. However, at such an event the overwhelming emotion is joy, not remorse. The graduates do not leave the auditorium weeping because they did not earn better grades. Rather, they are thankful that they have been graduated, and they are grateful for what they did achieve. To overdo the sorrow aspect of the judgment seat of Christ is to make heaven hell. To underdo the sorrow aspect is to make faithfulness inconsequential. —Samuel L. Hoyt

James 5:9 — Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

- **Behold** – James is exclaiming something here! Take note!
- **the Judge** – not a real mystery who the Judge is, we saw in James 4:12 that there is by one Judge – Jesus Christ!
- **is right at the door** – the word door here is plural, the Judge is at the doors. The imagery here is of a Judge about to enter a courtroom and hear the case.
 - ⇒ The emphasis here is on the immanence of Christ's return! It can happen at any moment!

APPLICATION

1. Don't complain or grumble against others.
2. Be certain that you will not face condemnation.
3. Fear God in anticipation of the judgment seat of Christ.