

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

## “*Be Patient*”

Scripture Reading: JAMES 5:7-11

- ) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
- ) **SLIDES 7-8**. Read today’s Scripture text.
- ) **SLIDE 9**. Today we continue in our expository study in the Book of JAMES. This is week #26. I have titled today’s message “*Be Patient*” (5:7,8).
- ) If you haven’t figured it out by now, this message is about patience. And for some reason, I believe this message today is for most of us if not all of us.
- ) **SLIDE 10**. What does it mean to be a patient person? Webster. You’re right Mike. This message is for me today because I find that difficult to do. Well, we all do.
- ) This morning I want to look at patience from three different perspectives. 1) patience in the immediate context of this passage. 2) patience in the general context of this passage. 3) the Biblical mandate about patience concerning the believer. First, the immediate context of patience in this passage.
- ) **SLIDE 11**. JAMES 5:7. Anytime you see the word “*therefore*” in a passage, you need to look at the text before that to see what the word “*therefore*” is there for.
- ) **SLIDE 12**. JAMES 5:6-7.
- ) Last week when we studied v1-6, we talked about the “*rich*” who were cheating the laborers because these rich people wanted to store up treasures on earth. I believe those laborers were the righteous brethren James is speaking to here. Even though their wages have been withheld by greedy bosses, James tells them to be patient.

- ) **SLIDE 13.** Be patient with those who take **ADVANTAGE** of you. The immediate context of patience is for these brethren who have been cheated to be patient. The Lord will deal with these people who are cheating you.
- ) Wait a second, Mike! Here's my human response when I am cheated. Revenge. Pay back. Get even. We watch the movies where the innocent get cheated and we love to see them get back at the bad guys. Right?
- ) **SLIDE 14.** God's Word addresses that too. ROM 12:19. There are proper courses of action that can be taken in such situations. But we remain patient throughout. I'm convinced that God will bless those who are patient.
- ) That was the immediate context. Now let's talk about patience in the general context of this passage.
- ) **SLIDE 15.** JAMES 5:9-10. Back in 4:1, James mentions quarrels that were going on between the brethren. And he is saying here that the brethren need to quit complaining against each other. Imagine that. Church people complaining about other church people. We've probably all done it mostly behind the backs of those we are complaining about.
- ) And James points out that the prophets of Israel were also being complained about mostly by those who did not want hear what the prophets were saying. But the prophets endured with patience and so should these brethren. And we must endure with patience too.
- ) **SLIDE 16.** The apostle Paul also writes about patience among believers in COLOSSIANS 3:12-13.
- ) **SLIDE 17.** But I can't help noticing a similarity between what Paul is writing here and what James is writing. COL 3:12-13.
- ) **SLIDE 18.** Let's compare that to what James writes. JAMES 5:8-9. James is saying to be patient with one another and quit complaining about and against one another.

- ) Let's be honest. Not everyone does and says everything just the way we would like them to, now do they? And when they don't, we complain.
- ) **SLIDE 19**. 5:8-9. But what James is saying is that if we have differences (complaints) with one another, we resolve our differences by Biblical standards so we do not get judged.
- ) We talked about that three weeks ago in the message "*He Who Speaks against a Brother*." If we judge, we must judge according to Biblical standards. And quite possibly this complaining that was going on here was not conducted in a Biblical fashion.
- ) **SLIDE 20**. COL 3:12-13. And what Paul is saying is that if we have differences (complaints) with one another, we resolve our differences with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and with a spirit of forgiveness. That is the Biblical way to work out our differences. And we will have differences.
- ) But we are human beings, and that makes all those things difficult for us to do. The spirit must win.
- ) **SLIDE 21**. Be patient with other believers in which we have **DIFFERENCES**. Don't go throwing stuff at them. There are proper Biblical courses of action that can be taken in such situations. And we remain patient throughout. I'm convinced that God will bless those who are patient.
- ) That was the general context of patience in this passage. Having patience with other believers. Now let's talk about the Biblical mandate about patience concerning the believer.
- ) No doubt there are many things that can make a person impatient—other people, slow service at fast food restaurants; drivers not paying attention to the traffic lights because they are on their cell phones; commercial breaks on TV which seem to last forever and will you ever get back to your movie; will the contractors ever finish this job.

- ) The neighbor's dog that never quits barking; waiting for the medical test results; will the preacher ever finish? I'm getting hungry. It's quite a list and we all have our impatient "hot" buttons that will set us off. So, in a general sense, what does the Bible teach us about being patient in all these situations?
- ) **SLIDE 22.** Nineteen books in the Bible speak about patience; either God's patience and/or the patience the believer should exhibit. The one verse we are probably most familiar with is GAL 5:22-23. The believer exhibits the fruit of the Spirit. This isn't optional.
- ) **SLIDE 23.** PROVERBS 14:29.
- ) **SLIDE 24.** A patient person does not display **FOLLY**. What is folly? Lack of good sense. Foolishness. The neighbor's dog may bark constantly, but I'm not going to shoot it. That would show a lack of good sense. I must be patient.
- ) **SLIDE 25.** PROVERBS 15:18.
- ) **SLIDE 26.** A patient person does not stir up **CONFLICT**. We all know that one person who just loves to stir the pot. Right? They love conflict. They love to be argumentative. They are the ones you never invite over for Thanksgiving dinner.
- ) **SLIDE 27.** PROVERBS 16:32.
- ) **SLIDE 28.** A patient person will have **SELF-CONTROL**. As we know, both patience and self-control are fruit of the Spirit. And it's easy to see how these two go hand-in-hand. If I have patience waiting for my fast food Big Mac that should have been out 20 minutes ago, I'll have self-control and won't be strangling the clerk behind the counter.
- ) **SLIDE 29.** PROVERBS 19:11.
- ) **SLIDE 30.** A patient person has **WISDOM** to always make the right choices. Explain the car rolling down the hill.

- ) Whatever words I spoke to her at that moment would stay with her the rest of her life. What would those words be?
- ) **SLIDE 31**. There's a reward for being patient. JAMES 5:11. The prophets endured with patience. These brethren need to endure with patience. And we need to persevere and be patient too.
- ) Job went through the worst trials anyone could ever imagine. And because of his endurance, his patience, he came out blessed in the end. Read JOB 42.
- ) I am convinced that the Lord blesses people who are patient. It says right here that He is compassionate and merciful. I like that. And I need that. Hope you do too.

7/31/2022 at Beech Grove Christian Church