

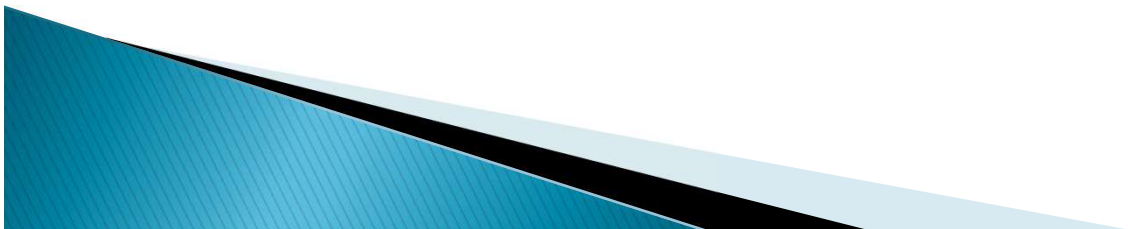
# The Epistle of James: Living My Faith

- Living my faith in the midst of trials from without and temptations from within
- Living my faith in relation to the word of God – be doers and not hearers only
- Living my faith in relation to our fellow man – without partiality and evil thoughts; with love
- Living my faith by understanding that pleasing faith works obedience
- Living my faith in relation to the use of our tongues
- Living my faith in relation to the world and worldliness
- Living my faith in relation to my brethren
- Living my faith with God in my plans
- Living my faith in relation to this world's goods
- Living my faith with patience in the face of suffering and injustice



# Living my faith in relation to this world's goods

- “Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.”
- Not speaking directly to Christians, but for the edification of the Christians to whom he is writing
  - Very possibly speaking by “apostrophe” – “In rhetoric it is a turning away from the real auditory, and addressing an imaginary one” (Dungan, Hermeneutics, p.322)
    - Examples: 2 Samuel 18:33; Isaiah 14:9-20)
- See James 2:6-7
- Pronouncing woe and not calling to repentance



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- Their riches were corrupted
  - Not all riches are corrupted
    - Verses 4-6 tell us something about them
  - It is not the number of dollars but the attitude toward them
  - 1 Timothy 6:6-11, 17-19
  - Mark 10:23-24
  - Luke 8:14
  - Matthew 6:19-21, 24



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- What awaits these rich people?
  - Romans 2:5
- The ones addressed here may think they are storing up treasures so that they can take their ease when in fact they are storing up their treasures for the day of wrath



# Living my faith in relation to this world's goods

- “Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.”
- Riches accumulated through holding back rightfully-due wages
- In the Law of Moses:
  - Leviticus 19:13; Jeremiah 22:13
- Romans 13:8
- Colossians 3:22-25; 4:1
- God hears the cries of the oppressed
- Sabaoth = hosts. God is the Lord of hosts, describing his power and might and glory
  - He is able to right the wrongs; He will bring justice in the end



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- These rich had lived “delicately” – fleshly indulgent life, for gratification of the flesh and pleasures of their worldly mind – selfishly, uselessly, wastefully
- Luke 12:15-21
- Luke 16:25 – some choose to have their good things now
- Fattened their own selves as an animal for the day of its slaughter – for judgment



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- These rich were at the center of injustice
- Acts 3:14; 7:52; 22:14
- 1 Peter 2:21-23
- Matthew 5:38, 39, 43-45



# Living my faith in the face of suffering and injustice

- “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.”
- Patient = long of temper; longsuffering
- In James 1:3 – “patience” = endurance, bearing up under
  - Might think of 1:3 as patience with “things”; 5:7 as patience with people
  - Remember Romans 12:19-21
  - Right will triumph in the end
  - 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10





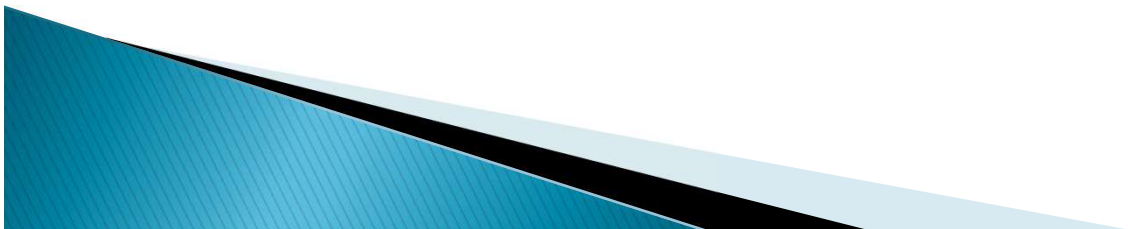
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- We have a conviction of future good and reward, a reaping in eternity
- That conviction gives us strength to give all effort to endure trials now
- Establish, make the purposes of your heart firm and sure and unwavering.
  - Prop up our hearts by faith; they sometimes want to sag into uncertainty
  - 1 Thessalonians 3:13
- The Lord’s return is so certain that it can be regarded as near, at hand
  - 2 Peter 3:3-7



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- Grumbling, groaning, murmuring against each other
  - Don't be impatient and quarrelsome with others, wanting to blame others for our distress, quick to find fault with others, never seeing anything good in others
- Don't become a chronic grumbler
- Refer back to James 4:11-13



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- These examples are to be imitated
- Prophets - most-persecuted men
  - Matthew 23:34; 5:12; Acts 7:52
- When persecuted, they could ask themselves: who is being rejected?
  - 1 Samuel 8:4-9
- They were men just like us!



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- They were blessed
  - Our word happy tends to denote the feeling based on outward circumstance
  - Blessed indicates an inward happiness that results from the peace that reigns within our hearts
- Need to remember and consider the latter end
  - Psalm 73:16-18



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- “An infidel once addressed the following note to the editor of a county paper: ‘Sir: I have a religious neighbor, who, when he prays, I curse; when he goes to church, I go fishing; yet in October my harvest is as bountiful as his. How do you explain it?’ The editor answered: ‘Sir, you err in assuming God settles all of his accounts in October!’ (from Commentary on James by Guy N. Woods, p.285)



# Take-aways

- Regarding this world's goods that we temporarily possess,
  - By what means were they obtained?
  - How are they being enjoyed?
  - To what use are they being put?
- We can be longsuffering through mistreatment and injustice when we remember that vengeance belongs to the Lord
- By faith our hearts can be established, rooted, and grounded
- Like Job, we may be unable to determine the purposes and causes for which things may be happening, but we know the Lord abounds in compassion and mercy

