

**February 14, 2021**  
***The Bridge Bible Fellowship***  
**Pastor Paul S. Brown**  
**James 5:7-11**

**“Here Comes the Judge!” OR**  
**“Be Patient: The Lord is Coming!”**

## Discussion and Application:

1. What does the word “**patience**” mean? Discuss some areas of day-to-day life where you need to practice patience? Of those, which is the most difficult for you? Why? Is it more difficult for you to be patient with people or with circumstances? Why?
2. There are a lot of **quotes** (maxims, proverbs) about patience. “Patience is the calm acceptance that things can happen in a different order than the one you have in mind.” “Patience is the ability to count down before you blast off.” What helpful quotes (or Bible **verses**) go through your mind when you are tempted to be impatient?
3. James 5:7 begins with the word “**therefore**.” What is the connection to the previous section? What does patience have to do with what was discussed there? The command in James 5:7 is “Start being patient.” What is implied by that command?
4. The Bible speaks often about the coming of the Lord. How does meditating upon the fact of the imminent return of Jesus help us be patient when we are wronged? What passages about the return of Jesus help you be patient with the evils and injustices of this world?
5. What is implied about the farmer waiting until the “**early and late rains**”? What timeframe is that? Is the farmer passive that entire time? What are some principles you can derive from this illustration?
6. What does it mean to “**strengthen your hearts**”? How was it used of Jesus in Luke 9:51 and of Peter in Lk. 22:32? What are some practical ways to strengthen your own heart and help strengthen the hearts of others? How does meditating on the soon return of Jesus and the physical proximity of Jesus help when you are under intense pressure from the world?
7. Why does James command them not to “**complain**” (groan; sigh) against one another? What does that have to do with the context? How might this show up when someone is being attacked or treated unjustly by others? In what way is complaining the opposite of being patient? What does God think about complaining? (see Numbers 11)
8. Why are the Old Testament **prophets** a good example for us when we are being mistreated? Why does James specifically point out that they spoke in the name of the Lord? Read **1 Peter 2:11-24**. What principles do you find in that passage that help you respond properly when you are suffering at the hands of evil people?
9. Why do you think James uses **Job** as an example in v. 11? Did Job ever complain about his circumstances? What is the difference between “endurance” and “patience”? How specifically was Job blessed after he endured? (See Job 37-42) Most people point to the material blessings. What other blessing did Job receive from enduring his trials that is even greater than material things? Hint: look at the end of James 5:11.
10. Read the following passages and discuss how believers with a deep conviction about the imminent return of the Lord Jesus should respond to the sufferings of this world: 1 John 3:1-3; 2 Peter 3:10-18; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:1-11; 2 Thess. 2:1-15. Encourage one another and pray for one another to stand firm and wait patiently.
11. Memorize James 5:7-11. Meditate on the soon return of Jesus and live every day in light of that reality. “Here comes the Judge!”