



Patiently Awaiting Christ? Or Petulantly Protesting?

James 5:7-12

- 1) Be patient w/ your life in light of Christ's imminent return (7-8)
 - a) Turn your attention to Christ's coming (Heb 9:28)
 - b) Turn away from the petty problems of life
- 2) Refrain from falsely judging your fellow Christians (9)
 - a) You're imperfect, so why complain about others?
 - b) Harsh judgment awaits grumblers
- 3) Look to the positive examples of saints who endured harsh treatment (10-11)
 - a) OT prophets: Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah
 - b) OT writings: Job
- 4) Let your words be consistent with your faith (12; cf. 1:26; 2:12; 3:2-11; 4:11)
 - a) How believers speak is a test of living faith (cf. Matt 12:34-37; Luke 6:43-45)
 - b) "For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart" (Matt 12:34)
- 5) Has someone done you wrong? Has life wounded you?
 - a) Patiently endure your difficult situation, finding joy in the midst of it (5:7-8; cf. 1:2-4)
 - b) Strengthen your heart (5:8) by reading Scripture, prayer, and worship—knowing that God works all things for His good (cf. Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28)
 - c) Refuse to grumble or play the victim (5:9-11)
 - d) Swear off swearing (5:12), and hope in your future glory (cf. Rom. 8:30)