

Principles of Endurance for Suffering Christians
Enduring injustices and hardships of suffering when men are evil.

Introduction: Priming the pump for tonight's discussion.

- Let's begin with our own observations. What is one thing that stood out to you from the message that you would share with the group? Was there a moment where God spoke to you personally through His Word?

Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.

- We began our teaching this week by noting the errors of the prosperity gospel. How should Christians respond to the false teachings of the prosperity gospel, and what does the Bible say about suffering and the Christian life? Should Christians expect seasons or experiences of suffering...even if they are regular in church and give money to the Lord?
- The believers who first received James' letter were suffering because of unscrupulous men who exploited their labors, withheld wages due, and used their power in the courts to silence them. James spoke about their wealth being corrupted, rusted, and moth eaten because it was obtained unjustly. What lessons are there for us as we work, save, invest, and otherwise labor towards increasing our own financial wealth in this present era? Does it matter to God how a Christian makes his or her money?
- One significant theme in James' writing this week was the contrast between those who were living in the lap of ill gotten luxury now, and their coming judgment when they meet the Lord and give an account for their lives. What are the dangers of living for today's temporal luxuries without an eternal Christian perspective? How does knowing that we shall answer to God impact our present mode of living?
- James admonished believers dealing with injustice to patiently wait for Jesus, to avoid the temptation to grumble against men, to persevere in suffering by thinking of Biblical heroes, and by always keeping their word. Let's discuss these principles in our day by rephrasing these things in our own words and by noting their importance as we struggle with present day injustices.

Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study:

- Genesis 50:15-21
- Romans 8:28
- Psalm 82:3-4

Focal Text: James 5:1-12

- Proverbs 16:18, 20:23
- Micah 6:8

Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?

- Bearing in mind what James said about wealth accumulation, are there principles of righteousness that I need to bring into the sphere of my financial game plan?
- If you've experienced injustice, or are currently experiencing injustice, then how should James' admonitions be applied to your specific circumstance?