



Preparation for Christ's Coming with Pastor Max Frazier

James 5:7-20

AN INTRODUCTION

"What is an exciting part of being a follower of Jesus Christ?"

Forgiveness of sins

Knowing that someone really loved you

Fellowship with others

Victory over sin in our lives

Having a purpose in life

Hope and certainty that Jesus is coming again (*Titus 2:13*)

Two responses when people consider the return of Jesus:

Apathy – 2 Peter 3:3-4

Eager anticipation

Three words to describe His return:

Parousia – preparation for the visit of a king

Epiphaneia – ascension of an emperor to the throne in Rome

Apokalupsis – a revelation

BE PATIENT

James 5:7-11

Patience = "the refusal to give way before the afflictions and trials that come.

Waiting is one of the most difficult things to do.

Illustration: a farmer waits...and waits

We are to be patient with other believers; we find it so easy to be critical of others.

INTEGRITY IN SPEECH

James 5:12

In a Jewish mind, any oath that included the name of God was a binding oath because God became an active partner in that oath; if it did not include the name of God, the oath was not binding (*Matthew 5:33-37*)

James is urging followers of Christ to be people of integrity

Integrity = “the quality of being honest and fair”

James’ challenge: think before you promise.

PRAY AT ALL TIMES

James 5:13-18

I believe that James has in mind here spiritual health rather than physical health.

I believe James is challenging the spiritual leadership of the church to beware of those who are battling spiritual depression, loneliness, fears of the unknown, doubts.

Word translated “trouble” means “enduring evil treatment by people.”

Word refers to a person who is weakened spiritually because of the cares of life.

Solution: that person should pray continually.

Prayer is the antidote for weakness (*Ephesians 6:18*)

If a follower of Christ is happy, he should worship the Lord with songs of praise (*Psalms 100:1-2, 4*)

If a follower of Christ is sick – a weariness produced by the sufferings of life – he to call for the Elders to come and pray.

“The wounded, exhausted, broken sheep are to go to their shepherds, who will intercede for them and ask God for renewed spiritual strength on their behalf.”

CONTINUE SHARING THE GOSPEL

James 5:19-20

James is admonishing his readers to be aware of apostasy that can so easily creep into the church and lead people astray.

Our task is to bring those people back to the truth.

Challenge: Acts 20:28, 31

A CHALLENGE

James closes with a reminder that this life is not the ending of our story.

Jesus is coming back!

James has challenged us in our living.

Simply truth: “Jesus loves me, this I know... and Jesus loves you, this I also know.”

