

# **Patience in Suffering**

**(James 5: 7-12)**

“Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord.” (5:7a)

# Judgment Day

“If there is no Judgment Day, then there are only two things to do – lose all hope or turn to vengeance.” (Timothy Keller)

# Judgment Day

“And so the biblical doctrine of Judgment Day, far from being gloomy idea, enables us to live with both hope and grace.”

(Timothy Keller)

Patience: to wait expectantly for the coming of the Lord.

“Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.” (5:7)

# While we wait...

“You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.” (5:8)

- ◆ To strengthen yourselves
- ◆ To stand firm

# While we wait...

“Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.” (5:9)

It is possible to incur judgment by the wrong kind of speech (see James 4:11-12).

# Concerning our speech

“But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.” (5:12)



“Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.” (5:9)

As Father, God does not cease to be judge. He is the One who judges everybody according to his or her works and who does so impartially, without favouritism.

“Five minutes inside eternity and we will wish that we had sacrificed more, wept more, grieved more, loved and prayed more, and given more.” (Leonard Ravenhill)

“As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.” (5:10-11)

It is not uncommon for God's people to endure suffering for the sake of righteousness.

“Opposition! It is a bad sign for the Christianity of this day that it provokes so little opposition... When the church and the world can jog along together comfortably, you may be sure there is something wrong.” (Catherine Booth)

# The Steadfastness of Job

In the midst of his incomprehension, he clung to God and continued to hope in him (Job 1:21; 2:10; 16:19-21; 19:25-27).

“You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.”

“You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”

# Understanding Suffering

“Suffering is both just and unjust. God is both a sovereign and a suffering God.”

(Timothy Keller)



## Timothy Keller:

Yes, we do not know the reason God allows evil and suffering to continue, or why it is so random, but now at least we know what the reason is not. It cannot be that he does not love us. It cannot be that he does not care.

He is so committed to our ultimate happiness that he was willing to plunge into the greatest depths of suffering himself. He understands us, he has been there, and he assures us that he has a plan to eventually wipe away every tear.

Someone might say, “But that’s only half an answer to the question ‘Why?’” Yes, but it is the half we need.”