

DO YOU WANT TO GIVE UP?

James 5:7-12

INTRODUCTION: It is the teaching of the Bible that just before the Lord Jesus returns to the earth again, there are going to be days of trouble and times of difficulty: 2 Timothy 3:1-5. This extreme pressure will cause many professing believers to back away from the faith: Matthew 24:12. In those difficult days the children of God are encouraged to be patient and to stay faithful and to not give up. Our Lord's soon promised return is the hope that will sustain the believer to stay the course. "Maranatha" was the Greek word for the return of the Lord. Luke 21:25-28; Titus 2:11-13; 2 Peter 3:11-13. We are encouraged to keep looking up: James 5:7; James 5:8.

I. CHRIST'S COMING SHOULD EXCITE US!

The truth of our Lord's soon return should excite the children of God! Our Lord's return is described by three words: "revelation", "appearing" and "the coming of the Lord." The Greek word "Parousia" which means "to be along-side." We like to sing "The King Is Coming" and indeed He is coming and the greatest joy is to know He is coming for me! James 5:8; James 5:9; Matthew 24:32-33. We believe the coming of our Lord is imminent, though not necessarily immediate. Immediate means it is going to happen right now. Imminent means that it could happen right now. James 5:9: Our Lord's return is getting nearer and nearer.

II. CHRIST'S COMING SHOULD MAKE US STABLE!

Our Lord Jesus soon return should stabilize our lives. James 5:8; James 5:9; James 5:12. The coming of the Lord is coming has that truth made you strong in heart? James 5:8. We need to be strong in heart as we await our Lord's soon return. 1 Peter 5:10: Our God can put iron in our hearts: Romans 1:11; Psalm 119:9-11: Are you hiding God's Word in your heart? It will cause your heart to be strong. The belief in the soon return of Christ will make you sweet in spirit: James 5:9: God's people need to be sweet in spirit as we await our Lord's soon return. James 5:9 tells us the Judge is at the door. Are you allowing the soon coming of the Lord to examine your heart? James 5:12: Are you sound in your words? A loose tongue and a pressured life sometimes go together. At times under pressure we say things we ought not to say. You do know that one day we will face all our words again: Matthew 12:35-36.

III. CHRIST SOON COMING SHOULD ENCOURAGE US!

The second coming of our Lord should encourage us! James 5:7; James 5:8; James 5:11. In James 5:7 the Lord used the word "farmer" as in waiting for the precious fruit of the field. The farmer must be patient. What causes the farmer to be patient: God's promise: Genesis 8:22. The prophets also are an illustration of being patient: James 5:10: Why did the prophets endure? It is because they trusted in the promises of God. Job was also patient: James 5:11: "The patience of Job." Job just kept on trusting God even though he could not figure out why he was suffering so. James 5:11. What kept Job going? Job put his confidence in the purpose of God. You and I have a choice; we can be overcome by days we live in or we can claim the promises of God, the coming of the Lord draws nigh and we can overcome. We have been told that our Lord is coming soon. Rejoice!