

Patience? Perseverance! The Lord is Compassionate

December 11, 2016 – James 5:7-11

“Be patient, then, brothers until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. Don’t grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”

Kaitlynn is “A Shining example of Perseverance.” who had her calf mangled in the Boston Marathon bombing April 15, 2013 at the age of 26 when she was a spectator. Kaitlynn said that it took great perseverance to recover. She completed running the Boston Marathon in 2015 in 4 hours and 44 minutes. That is 26.2 miles and is an average of about a 10 Minute Mile.

In this section of Scripture from James, we hear James, [The half-brother of Jesus, who did not believe in Jesus at first, Mark 3:21 – He thought that Jesus was, “*Out of His Mind*” see also John 7:5] we hear James speaking of patience. The Greek term actually can be translated as “LONG SUFFERING” James also speaks of Perseverance in which the Greek term can also be translated as CHEERFUL CONSISTANCY -

James tells us to:

Vs. 7a – *Be patient, then, brothers until the Lord’s coming.*

James had grown up with Jesus in the flesh. He knew Jesus, yet did not accept Jesus as the Messiah in the early years of his life. It was not until after the Resurrection that James believed.

With these words, James is now looking towards the 2nd coming of Jesus, when all believers will be with Christ Jesus in heaven, with our new and glorified bodies and no more pain or suffering or sorrow.

As we wait, James says, be Patient, LONG SUFFERING.

One example that James uses as an inspired writer of the Word of our Lord is the Farmer.

Vs. 7b - *See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.*

Those of you who plant gardens and who are farmers or retired farmers, you are fully aware of the fact that in the Spring, you till the soil and when the soil is warm enough you plant the seed in the ground. Then you wait for it to grow. You pray for rain, and then when it rains so much that you fear that the seeds and plants will be drowned and flooded out, you pray for the rain to stop. You place your entire trust in God’s providence and mercy and generosity.

Sunday after Sunday, and every time you study the Holy Bible, you are reminded that the Lord Jesus is coming again to take us and all believers to our heavenly home, yet we become impatient. When we get impatient there is a danger to grumble and complain about, and against one another. To this God through the writer James repeats the importance of being patient.

Vs. 8 – *You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.*

Vs. 9 – Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

It is true that it is most important that we maintain the truth of Scripture, not adding to it or subtracting from it. It is also important that we avoid sin. That is those things which God prohibits. It is important that we not make other things our god. It is important that we guard our tongue and not curse and swear, it is important that we do not neglect regular public worship nor should we despise those in authority. God also tells us very clearly that we are not to murder and hate, not to commit adultery, not to steal, not to covet, nor to bear false witness against our fellow human being.

Yet at the same time it is important that when we point out sins of one another that we do so with gentleness and respect. When we are tempted to judge one another we need to keep in mind that God, The Judge of all, is standing at the door! He is coming on the Last day.

James gives a 2nd example of Patience and perseverance with the prophets.

Vs. 10 – Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord.

Think of the 3 men in the fiery furnace, Daniel in the Lion's den, Jeremiah who was thrown into a cistern to die, Elijah who was hunted by Ahab and his wife Jezebel, as well as other servants of God who were abused, persecuted and martyred because of their service to God. If we missed the point of being patient in suffering and persevering in the Word of our Lord, James uses another example: - JOB

Vs. 11 – As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about.

Job had 7 sons and 3 daughters killed when the building they were in fell on them and they all died. Job had his 7,000 sheep burned up in a fire from the sky, 3,000 camels carried off by the Chaldean raiding parties, 1,000 oxen and 500 donkeys carried off by the Sabeans, his servants were killed, he lost his health, and to top it all off, Job's wife told him to curse God and die. Yet Job persevered and in the last chapter of Job we read that Job had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 2,000 oxen 1,000 donkeys, and another 7 sons and 3 daughters, and in it all, Job did not charge God with wrong doing.

Does our Perseverance earn us the forgiveness of sins? NO!

And so we thank God that Christ Persevered for us to the cross.

Vs. 11b –The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

God has poured out His Mercy, pity, sympathy, sorrow and grief out on us due to our misfortune of sin.

God is Kind – Forgiving – Empathetic – Sympathetic – He shared in our suffering.

Instead of God pouring out His wrath on us, God poured out His Wrath upon Jesus, His One and Only Son – our Savior.

May the Lord continue to give you and I the strength to persevere in Jesus our Risen Savior. AMEN