

Topic: James Chapter 5

Setting: This part of the Epistle is focused on the misuse of riches & exhortation for patience, endurance while suffering and praying effectively.

Key Verse: "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." (v.16)

Thought: James addresses several issues that were causing major problems in the lives of Christian families: trusting in riches while mistreating poor labourers; complaining about sufferings; being impatient about the second coming; coping with physical sickness and spiritual sin.

Verse	Notes & Questions	Comments & Answers
v.1-3	Those Christians who trusted in riches were now enduring hardships. James tells them that their gold and silver have "rusted". How would this rust be a witness against them and how will it consume their flesh?	
v.4-6	Another condemnation against the wealthy was their mistreating of their own workers. Apparently, when bad economic times arrived, wealthy Christians were so greedy to protect their wealth that they refused to pay their workers. What else did some of the wealthy do to poor, defenceless labourers who could not earn enough to survive or to pay their debts?	
v.7- 20	Practical advice for Christian living: i) Why be patient for Christ's return? ii) What can we learn from the prophets? Iii) Why do we not need to swear to convince people we are telling the truth? iv. What should our response be when suffering or when cheerful? v. What should we do when we are sick? vi. Why should we do something for a sinner?	