

Questions for Conversations

03.13.21

How has covid tested, tried, or helped your patience?

Read James 5:1-6. Why, according to James, should the rich weep and wail?

“You have stored up riches,” warns James in verse 3, “in the last days.”

N. T. Wright states that “James believed that with Jesus, God’s new world had begun! He had launched God’s kingdom, on earth as in heaven: this is ‘the age to come’ for which Israel had longed and prayed! These are, in that sense, ‘the last days,’ the great new time in which everything would be set right at last.”

This passage is one of the sharpest warnings against careless luxury anywhere in the Bible. Why do you think that James took the fact that they “stored up riches in the last days” so seriously?

What should the church do and say about the wrong way riches are handled individually and in society as a whole?

Wealth is always a relative thing. We can always think of people who have more than we do, and so excuse ourselves from the accusation of being one of those “rich people.” How can we overcome this problem and gain an accurate perspective on our actual situation when it comes to how rich or poor we are?

What warnings in this passage do you see as being relevant to you?

Read James 5:7-12. In verse 7 James urges patience as we await the coming of Christ. How would you describe what it is like for you to wait for the return of the Lord?

How does James encourage his readers to be patient for the appearing of the Lord (vv. 7-9)? 9.

What do you think the warning about grumbling is about?

How are the prophets and Job examples of patience (vv. 10-11)? 11.

Focus on God is what makes it possible to have strong hearts and to be patient. What do you see of God in this passage which will help you to be patient as you wait for the Lord's return?

What aspects of God that you see here should you focus on and why?

Rob suggested that the fact that God is going to judge is good news. Do you agree?

Share and Prayer