

5:1-6

A Warning to the Rich

James 5:7-11

Living in light of Christ's Return

5:12

Don't Take a False Oath

- In the **Old Testament** there are about **1,845** references to Christ's second coming!
- In the **New Testament** **1 of every 30** verses reference Christ's second coming!
- In the **Bible** for every **1 verse** concerning Christ's first coming there are **8 verses** which look towards His second coming!
- Why is Eschatology [**study of the last things**] **so practical** to the believer?

1. **Equip the church:** Neglect produces **a dangerous vacuum**. Eschatology is **the crown** of systematic theology.
2. **Worship God:** "When we think of **the resurrection**, the defeat of **Satan**, the final and perfect **judgment**, the **new heavens** and the **new earth**, and **eternal fellowship** with Christ and His Church, we surely cannot but **amplify our worship** of God" (DM).
3. **Serve with zeal:** When the immanence of Christ's return is held in focus we're **compelled to prepare for it with earnestness**.
4. **Foster hope:** "When the Church faces **trials** from which we will not be delivered while here on earth such as disease, pain or injustice it is vital to have **a lively hope of resurrection life** that fuels **endurance to the end**" (DM).
5. **Fuel Mission:** "When we consider **our great hope**, **the eternal blessedness** of heaven, and **the great need** of fellow sinners, we should be motivated with **greater passion for lost souls and the glory of God**. While obsession with the last things is dangerous, omission is a greater danger" (DM).
6. **Gaze Heavenward:** Eschatology keeps ultimate truths in our view and encourages us to **long for the heaven**.

3 Practical Ways to Live in light of Christ's Return:**1.) Prepare in **Patience** (7-8)**

Just like a farmer prepares his fields and waits for the crops with much out of his control but expecting that his efforts will bear fruit we're to prepare in this present life for the immanent return of Jesus Christ.

7 Therefore, brothers and sisters,**1.) be patient** [AAM] **until the Lord's coming.**

- **Therefore:** The rich are warned in light of **the Lord's Coming Judgment: 5:1**, **...the miseries that are coming on you. 5:4**, ...the outcry of the harvesters has **reached the ears of the Lord of Hosts. 5:5**, ...You have fattened your hearts **in a day of slaughter.**
- **be patient:** Long-tempered, the very opposite of being short-tempered 😊... This is a fruit of the Spirit within you.
- **until the Lords coming:**

First Coming**Second Coming**

Fulfilled prophecy, historical fact

Unfulfilled prophecy!

The babe of Bethlehem, wrapped in cloth in laying a manger

Wearing a crown as the King of kings and Lord of lords!

Meek and mild, riding on a donkey

A Warrior, riding on a powerful white war horse!

Despised and rejected

Received and celebrated, His reign and rule will know no end!

The suffering servant

A conquering king, trampling out the wrath of God!

The saviour of the world

The judge of the world!

a.) See [AAM] how **the farmer****1.) waits** [PMI] for the precious fruit of the earth**2.) and is patient** [PAP] with it**until** it receives [AAS] the early and the late rains.**b.)** ⁸ You also **must be patient** [AAM].

- **the farmer:** "Waits to **plow**, waits to **plant**, waits to **fertilize**, waits to **reap**... But more than simply waiting patiently, the farmer contends with so many **factors outside his control**. The farmer has no control over **the weather**, no control over **the rain** and **the heat**, no control over **the economy**, no control over **food prices**. Being a farmer requires **patience**."

2.) Strengthen [AAM] your **hearts**, **because the Lord's coming** is **near** [RAI].

- **Strengthen:** make stable, place firmly, set fast, fix, make firm. your **hearts:** Seat of volition, emotion, mind, understanding, soul.
- **because the Lord's coming** is **near:**
 - "likely to happen at any moment; **impending**." He could come back at any moment.
 - There is nothing more in biblical prophecy that needs to happen before Jesus comes again.
 - **Re 1:3**, ³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep what is written in it, **because the time is near**.
 - **Re 22:10**, ¹⁰ Then he said to me, "Don't seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, **because the time is near**."

2.) Live in Peace (9)

Just like the rich will be judged at Christ's return so will all. In light of this judgment we're to live in harmony together.

⁹ Brothers and sisters,
do not complain [], M] about one another,

Complain:

- Ac 6:1, ¹ In those days, as the disciples were increasing in number, there arose a complaint by the Hellenistic Jews against the Hebraic Jews that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution.
 - Ac 15:36-39, ³⁶ After some time had passed, Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's go back and visit the brothers and sisters in every town where we have preached the word of the Lord and see how they're doing." ³⁷ Barnabas wanted to take along John Mark. ³⁸ But Paul insisted that they should not take along this man who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone on with them to the work. ³⁹ They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed off to Cyprus.
 - Ph 4:2-3, ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to agree in the Lord. ³ Yes, I also ask you, true partner, to help these women who have contended for the gospel at my side...
 - James 4:1, ¹ What is the source of wars and fights among you? Don't they come from your passions that wage war within you?
 - "Those speak foolishly who ascribe their anger or their impatience to such as offend them or to tribulation. Tribulation does not make people impatient, but proves that they are impatient. So everyone may learn from tribulation how his heart is constituted" (ML).
- about one another: The 59 one another's.

so that you will not be judged [] PS]. A

Look [], AAM], the judge stands [],] at the door! † ①

- be judged... the judge: Jn 5:22, ²² The Father, in fact, judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son,
- stands at the door:
 - Mk 13:29, ²⁹ In the same way, when you see these things happening, recognize that he is near—at the door.
 - Re 3:20, ²⁰ See! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. †

3.) Endure in Hope (10-11)

When the pains of this life are overwhelming us we're to lift our eyes towards Jesus and remember that these trails will soon pass. Our Lord is compassionate and merciful and will supply all we need in our present moment and eternity to come.

¹⁰ Brothers and sisters,
take the prophets who spoke in the Lord's name as an example of suffering and patience.

- an example of suffering and patience: He 11:35b-38, Other people were tortured, not accepting release, so that they might gain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others experienced mockings and scourgings, as well as bonds and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they died by the sword, they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, destitute, afflicted, and mistreated. ³⁸ The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and on mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground.

¹¹ See,

we count as blessed those who have endured.

- 1.) You have heard of Job's endurance
- 2.) and have seen the outcome that the Lord brought about—the Lord is 1.) compassionate 2.) and merciful.

- Job: Suffered greatly. Blow after blow. Wealth, children, life all wrenched from him.
- Yet he cried 1:21, ²¹ saying: Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will leave this life. The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. To his wife 2:10, ¹⁰ "You speak as a foolish woman speaks," he told her. "Should we accept only good from God and not adversity?" Throughout all this Job did not sin in what he said. To his friends 13:15, ¹⁵ Even if he kills me, I will hope in him. I will still defend my ways before him. He knew 16:19, ¹⁹ Even now my witness is in heaven, and my advocate is in the heights! 21:28, ²⁸ But I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the end he will stand on the dust.
- the outcome that the Lord brought about: Restoration.
- the Lord is compassionate: To feel sympathy, to have pity. Ps 86:15, ¹⁵ But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth.
- and merciful: La 3:22-23, ²² Because of the Lord's faithful love we do not perish, for his mercies never end. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness!