

## The Letter of James: Transformed by Christ

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

James 5:1-11

### Justice Is Coming

1. A Reason for Weeping: God's Justice Will Bring Judgment for the Selfish Rich (vv.1-6)
  - Hoarding Wealth: Rotten Riches and Moth-eaten Clothes (vv.2-3)

"For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness."

2 Corinthians 8:13-14

### Justice Is Coming

1. A Reason for Weeping: God's Justice Will Bring Judgment for the Selfish Rich (vv.1-6)
  - Hoarding Wealth: Rotten Riches and Moth-eaten Clothes (vv.2-3)
  - Dishonest Treatment of Employees (v.4)
  - Self-Indulgent Lifestyles (v.5-6)
2. A Cause for Patience: Jesus' Return Will Bring Justice for Those who Suffer (vv.7-11)

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Matthew 5:10-12