

Strengthen Yourself Because Christ is Your Reward

James 5.7-12

Nov 9, 2024

7 Therefore, brothers and sisters, be patient until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth and is patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, because the Lord's coming is near.

9 Brothers and sisters, do not complain about one another, so that you will not be judged. Look, the judge stands at the door!

10 Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the Lord's name as an example of suffering and patience. 11 See, we count as blessed those who have endured.[a] You have heard of Job's endurance and have seen the outcome that the Lord brought about—the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "yes" mean "yes," and your "no" mean "no," so that you won't fall under judgment.

1. Intro
2. Main idea - Strengthen yourself because Christ is your reward
3. Why do the wicked prosper?
4. What do we do in suffering?
5. Be Like the farmer - 1st Corinthians 9.24
 1. He Waits
 2. He works
6. Strengthen Yourself
 1. Do not complain
 1. Stanford Study
 2. Proverbs 3.29 and Romans 16.17-18
 3. Colossians 4.6 - Let your speech be seasoned like salt
 2. Remember the Prophets
 1. Hebrews 11 - 16 Prophets by name, 17 books by prophets
 2. We remember people in today for the suffering they endure
 3. The Reward is Christ - **Hebrews 11.39** All these were approved through their faith, but they did not receive what was promised, **40** since God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect without us.
 3. Remember Job
 1. Job 42.5-6 - I had heard reports about you, but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore, I reject my words and am sorry for them; I am dust and ashes.
 4. Remember the Lord is compassionate and merciful
 5. Remember your oaths - Matthew 5.37
7. The Lord guarantees the covenant - Genesis 15

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- What is something you suffered for and ultimately did or did not receive the prize you set out to achieve?
- Can you identify with Satan's question to God about Job? (Job 1.9-11)
- Who is someone you look to as a hero of the faith and encouragement to you? Why?
- How has the Lord been Compassionate and Merciful to you?
- What would it look like in your life to complain less? How will they make it better?
- From your Grow Group time, what is an idea or two from your discussion that you can work to apply this week?