

BASIC CHRISTIANITY – More Jewels from James – Lesson 9

A WARNING TO THE RICH

1. In America, most of us are considered rich by the world's standards. James warns that material wealth can bring MISERY. (5:1)

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! (James 5:1)

2. "Your riches are CORRUPTED and your garments MOTH-EATEN. (5:2)

Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. (James 5:2)

3. Verse 3 states that our "silver and gold are corroded." What does this teach us about the longevity of earthly wealth? (1 Timothy 6:7)

"We brought NOTHING into the world, and we'll take NOTHING out."

Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. (James 5:3)

For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. (1 Timothy 6:7)

- a. *The use of the words corrupted and corroded in these verses carry with them the temporary state of material wealth. As the suffering Job stated...*

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." (Job 1:21)

4. The "heaping up of treasure" can be spiritually dangerous (5:3), Jesus said what good will it do if we gain the WHOLE WORLD and lose our SOUL? (Matthew 16:26)

For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matthew 16:26)

5. Instead of pursuing pleasure and luxury (indulgence) all of our lives (5:5), we should learn to be CONTINEMENT with our present situation. (1 Timothy 6:6)

Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. (5) You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. (James 5:4-5)

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. (1 Timothy 6:6)

Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: (Philippians 4:11)

CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR

6. Christians should continually develop PATIENCE in their lives. (5:7-8)

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. (8) You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. (James 5:7–8)

7. We must never GRUMBLE (COMPLAIN) about each other. (5:9)

Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! (James 5:9)

Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. (Colossians 3:13)

8. We should never SWEAR but let our “yes be yes” and our “no be no”. (5:12)

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your “Yes” be “Yes,” and your “No,” “No,” lest you fall into judgment. (James 5:12)

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. (Ephesians 4:29)

- a. *The use of “colorful” language is discouraged for the Christian. Many times, swearing or even the use of profanity are used to cover up even more sin. Integrity is of the utmost importance!*

MEETING NEEDS IN THE CHURCH

9. If we are suffering then we should PRAY. If we are happy then we should SING. (5:13)

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. (James 5:13)

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.” (Psalm 50:15)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Colossians 3:16)

10. One service of the elder is to pray for those who are SICK. (5:14-15)

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. (15) And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. (James 5:14–15)

11. Our relationships should be as such that we can CONFESS our faults to each other and PRAY for each other. (5:16)

- a. Prayers made by the righteous are very EFFECTIVE (BENEFICIAL).

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. (James 5:16)

So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done. (22) And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”
(Matthew 21:21–22)

*Our prayers must be request based upon our faith in God and that He is the provider of all good things.
(See James 1:17)*

RESTORING THE ERRING CHRISTIAN

12. Verse 19 states that it is possible for a Christian to WANDER (STRAY) from the TRUTH.

13. Through prayer and encouragement, the SINNER can be turned back to God. (5:20)

- a. When the sinner repents, his soul is saved from spiritual DEATH.

Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, (20) let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.
(James 5:19–20)

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. (2) Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:1–2)

What a great way to complete this letter of practical Christian guidance than to remind us of our responsibility to watch out for each other’s spiritual wellbeing? Our relationship, fellowship, and partnership with each can assure a strong and faithful church and an eternity with our Lord in heaven.

MY WEEKLY CHALLENGE: NEW DISCOVERIES THROUGH DAILY BIBLE READING

14. I am committed to reading the bible every day: (Check the box each day)

- Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday