

“Standing By the “Stuff””

James 5: 7-12

Introduction: Here is another shift in emphasis. James addresses the faithful believers with a call to a commitment which will not give in to pressure, persecution, or disappointment. This is an appeal for steadfast endurance, an appeal to “Stand By the Stuff.”

Vs. 7, “be patient therefore, brethren...” The word is *makrothumesate*, and it implies being patient with people and circumstances which are difficult and irritating.

I. Stand By the Stuff Expectantly, vss. 7-8,

-“Unto the coming of the Lord...” (*parousia*), He refers to the certainty and nearness of the Lord’s return. Illustration of farmer waiting for the harvest.

-“stablish your hearts...” vs. 8, Take courage, literally, “strengthen your inner being.”

II. Stand By the Stuff With Christ Likeness, vs. 9-11

A. “Grudge not against another...” vs. 9, “Do not grumble at each other...” Don’t let the pressures brought to bear from the outside cause you to be unchristian to one another.” We will give an account for how we treat others. This is a call for an attitude adjustment.

B. Two illustrations are used as those who “Stood By the Stuff.”

1. The Prophets, vs. 10

2. Job, vs. 11

C. “The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy,”v.11 , “He is an abundantly compassionate God.” These are Romans 8:28 times.

III. Stand By the Stuff Reverently and Seriously, vs. 12

-“But above all...” “Most of all...”

-**...swear not...**” He is probably referring to the practice of the Pharisees who swore by everything. They took lightly the matter of oaths and became a joke. Note: This does not refer to taking an oath in a court. Do not use God’s name irreverently or flippantly to guarantee the truth of your words. No formula which a person uses can make a statement truer.

-**“...let your “yes” be “yes” and your “no” be “no.”** Mean what you say and say what you mean! Believers should not have to use oaths to verify their truthfulness.

-**“...lest you fall into condemnation,”** We will be held responsible for what we say and vow. Speak the truth always and vows will be unnecessary. Note: Avoid exaggeration and misrepresentation (Half-truths).

Conclusion: James was concerned about the behavior of believers in the “in-between” time.

Illustration: WW II: D Day was when the allied forces invaded France. V Day was when the Germans surrendered on May 8, 1945. Between D Day and V Day the fighting continued but the victory had been won.