

15. What encouragement does 2 Peter 3.9 give as to why we should be 'patient' while we wait? (See also v11 here in James.)

16. What does verse 9 say will happen when the Lord comes?

17. From verses 7-11 how are we to live in these 'last days' knowing that His coming is at hand?

Pray

Pray for wisdom in how we use the good things that God has entrusted to us, that we would learn to be 'rich towards God' and remember that all the earthly things we have will pass away.

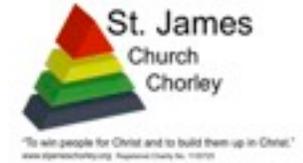
Pray that we might learn to live knowing that the coming of the Lord is at hand and that as the Lord is patient that people might repent so we might be compassionate and merciful calling them to repent and believe the gospel.

Pray for our Summer Fair and remaining preparation. Pray that people would come and enjoy themselves and that through it we might also build up links with those in the parish.

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James

Week 8 : Living in the Last Days



Read James 5.1-3

Notice that James and those he was first writing to were living in the last days (v3) as has every generation since Christ came until he comes again.

1. If you are not rich already, would you like to be, and why? What problems can there be in being rich (from your experience or imagination)?

2. What problems of wealth is James speaking about in these verses?

3. If it came to the crunch, perhaps because of persecution, would you be ready to give up what you have to remain faithful to Christ?

4. Read Matt 6.19-20. What are the "treasures in heaven" that Jesus says we should lay up in these last days?

Read James 5.4-6

5. What injustices does James speak about in these verses?

6. Do you think we as individuals, or our nation, can be guilty of the same things? (It will be more comfortable to talk about the nation, so don't just do that!)

7. Donald Trump is at least being open with his "America First" slogan whilst other nations, particularly our own in the past, have had a similar self-interest. Without getting distracted into politics what is the problem with this attitude?

Read James 4.7-11

8. Patience is one of the fruit of the Spirit and has many aspects but what particularly does James say here about what we need patience for?

9. What situations have we seen in this letter already where patience is necessary? What is particularly the focus in verse 10? Are there other situations you can think of?

10. Read James 1.2-3. What did we see there about the relationship between suffering, faith and steadfastness? (You may find patience, steadfastness, perseverance and endurance used by different translations in chapters 1 and 5.)

11. How would you see the experience of Job (or the prophets) fitting with your answer to questions 10? What was it they had to wait for?

12. Perhaps you are going through some difficulty of suffering now. How can the experience of Job and the prophets help us to remain steadfast in our own situation?

The coming of the Lord

The Lord here refers to Jesus as it did in chapter 1 verse 1.

13. What do these verses tell us about the return of Jesus? (v7 & 8)

14. When we are told that his coming is "at hand" do you think it is harder to accept and be patient compared with the people who first read the letter of James?