

James

Chapter Five

James 5:1-3

“Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you!

Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 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.”

Warning For The Rich

- Riches are not the problem because we know from Scripture that Jesus counted as His followers rich people like: Joseph of Armithea, and Zaccheus.
- The desire to be rich will lead to all kinds of problems.
- Money in and of itself is not evil.
- “But those who **desire to be rich** fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. **For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil**, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”-1 Timothy 6:9-10

- God's Word consistently warns the rich of the temptations that financial abundance brings with it.
- These temptations include: a false sense of security independent from God, a desire to control and manipulate others, and pride in self achievement.
- "The persons here addressed are not the same as those addressed in 4:13. It is no longer the careless worldliness of the bustling trader which is condemned, but the more deadly worldliness of the unjust capitalist...."-Mayor

The Rich Young Ruler

"Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. **But if you want to enter into life**, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,'

'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions"- Matthew 19:16-22

The Rich Man Was Wondering What He Could Do

- This is just like us—we think and falsely assume:
- That if we live a certain way
- Talk a certain way
- Give up more bad things
- Help old ladies across the street
- Dress a certain way
- We will win God's approval by our performance and this will get us points to enter in to His rest

Jesus' Answer

- Why are you asking me about what is good?"
- In the original language the emphasis in the sentence is on the "me"
- Jesus was redirecting the attention off of the good things to be done and on to Himself
- It is not what the rich man could possess but it was that which possessed him
- He had something in his life that he was powerless to overcome and therefore was restless
- The rich man went away sorrowful when right in front of him was his answer for peace: Jesus

Weep And Howl

- James is telling the rich to mourn is because of their destiny.
- “....your miseries that are coming upon you!”
- Riches lead to corruption of the person.
- Riches end up in the long run being corroded.
- “The corruptible nature of the wealth of the rich will **witness against** them. On the day of judgment it will be revealed that they have lived their lives in the arrogant independence James previously condemned, heaping up earthly **treasure in the last days**, when they should have been heaping up treasure in heaven (Luke 18:22).”-Guzik
- "Better weep here, where there are wiping handkerchiefs in the hand of Christ, than to have your eyes whipped out in hell. Better howl with men than yell with devils." (Trapp)

The Fruit Of The Soul

- The mourning of the kings of the earth comes not from sin but lack of profit and loss.
- The fruit of these end time merchants is money and riches.
- World commerce will be an important part of the last days joining nations together through their economic impact upon each other.
- The kings of the earth, representing nations, will negotiate **deals** of trade and commerce that benefit the people within the borders of each nation.
- This global economy will only escalate in the last days. This will leave little room for those in the world who will need to choose between business and the Lord.
- “**.....all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.**”(vs.14)

James 5:4-6

“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. You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.”

The Cry Of The Worker

- The rich are holding back the wages due to the workers.
- James calls this “fraud” against the rich because they lived a life of luxury off the backs of the workers.
- The cry of the worker’s injustice has reached the ear of the Lord.
- “Lord of the Sabaoth” should not be confused with “Lord of the Sabbath”.
- “Sabbath” means “seven” but “Sabaoth” is referring to: “Lord of the armies of Israel, as those who are under the leadership and protection of Jehovah maintain his cause in war”.
- “The primary reference is to Yahweh as the God of hosts or the armies of Israel and later the hosts of heaven. The rabbis rarely use the title, but Exodus 3:6 connects it with Yahweh’s war against injustice.”-Adamson

Fattened For The Slaughter

- The rich by trusting in their riches and defrauding their workers have set themselves up to be under God's wrath during the Day of the Lord.
- The rich have condemned the workers to a life of poverty which leads to death by hunger or the rich were actually killing the worker so that he could keep his money.
- Those who are poor and without power in this world have not received gratification from justice.
- However the Lord hears their cry of mourning and He is the one who will ultimately fight against every injustice handed out by man.

<u>The world's view of Riches</u>	<u>The Scriptures view of Riches</u>
Money brings freedom.	The desire for money can be enslaving and lead to destruction; only Christ brings true freedom (1 Tim. 6:7-10).
Money brings security.	.Worldly wealth is very insecure; it will quickly pass away (1:10). Real security is found in knowing and trusting God (Jer. 9:23, 24; 1 Tim. 6:17-19).
Money is what matters.	Christ and the kingdom of God are what matters (Matt. 6:33; Phil. 3:7-10).
Money is power.	Power comes from being filled with the Spirit (Acts 1:8; 3:1-10).
Money establishes not only your net worth, but your worth as a person.	Your worth is based on what God says, not what your bank statement says (John 3:16; Eph. 1:3-14).
Money makes you successful.	Success comes from knowing and doing what God says (Josh. 1:8).

<u>The world's view of Riches</u>	<u>The Scriptures view of Riches</u>
Money gives you options.	God is the One who ultimately gives you options (Eph. 3:20).
Money brings happiness.	The happiness that money brings is short-lived. And in the long run, money can actually produce 'many sorrows' (1 Tim. 6:10). Lasting joy comes from knowing God (5:1-6; John 15:11; 16:24).
Money is your reward. Save it, and spend it on yourself.	Give as much as you can (Matt. 6:19-24; Acts 20:35; 2 Cor. 9:6-11; 1 Tim. 6:18).
Money is your possession. Spend it on whatever you want.	All that you have is God's to do with as He pleases. You are merely a manager of His possessions (Ps. 24:1; Luke 19:11-27; 2 Cor. 5:10).
Taken from Constable's commentary on James	

James 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. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

Patience Like A Farmer

- We are to have patience until the coming of the Lord.
- The only crop that appears overnight and without work is weeds.
- No farmer has control over the weather.
- Too much sun can burn it up and too much rain can cause the crop to rot.
- A hailstorm or an early frost can kill the crop.
- Farmers are patient with the weather!

The Jewish Farmer

- Jewish farmers during the time of James would plow and plant in our autumn months.
- Autumn rain would soften the soil while spring rain would help mature the harvest.
- The farmer had to wait months for his seed to produce fruit.
- The reason the farmer waited so long is because the harvest it was "precious" and worth waiting for (James 5:7)

Establish Your Hearts

- The Lord is at hand and we need to be established in Jesus and the promise of His return.
- We do not have hope in this world.
- We do not have hope in the government.
- We do not have hope in the economy.
- Our hope is built upon the solid rock waiting patiently for the Savior Jesus Christ.
- We can keep our hearts secure knowing that God is in control of this world. It is not chaotic, but planned by the hand of a loving father.

The Lord Is At Hand

- This statement is a clear indication that the early Christians expected the Lord Jesus to return imminently.
- No one knows the day or the hour of the rapture. Which makes the first phase of the Lord's coming as imminent.
- "Imminent" means close in time or about to occur.
- "The Pre-tribulation Rapture view is the only view of the Rapture of the church that comfortably fits the New Testament teaching of the imminent coming of Christ. It is the only view that can honestly say that Christ could return at any moment, because it alone teaches that Christ will come to rapture the church before the 70th week of Daniel 9 or the Tribulation period begins and that nothing else must happen before His return."-Showers

James 5:9-10

“Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned.

Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience.”

Do Not Grumble

- When times are difficult it is easy to begin to grumble and place blame but when things are going good we are all smiles.
- The nation of Israel is a prime example. When the Lord delivered them out of Egypt they were celebrating but when things became difficult they were grumbling against the Lord and Moses wanting to go back to Egypt.
- The reason to not grumble against one another is we could become condemned or judged.

The Grumbling Of Israel In The wilderness

- So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "**If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!** Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? **Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?**" So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."- Num 14:1-4

The Judge Is At The Door

- The Judge is Jesus Who is standing at the door of heaven to welcome believers.
- To know the Lord and hope in His imminent (any moment) return should strongly motivate us to live patiently and sacrificially now.
- All believers will face a judgment.
- Paul said: "For we must all appear before the **judgment seat** of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."-2 Corinthians 5:10
- "Judgment seat" is **bema** which means "a raised place mounted by steps".

- “have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and **not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.**”-2 Timothy 4:7-8
- Those who do not know the Lord will face a final judgment and be cast into hell for eternity.
- The believer will face the Bema seat and be judged for, “each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; **but he himself will be saved,** yet so as through fire.”-1 Corinthians 3:13-15

The Great White Throne Judgment

- The great white throne judgment is different from the bema seat in that people will be judge by Jesus according to their works and will be cast into hell.
- “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son....”-John 5:22
- “...in the day when God **will** judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.”-Romans 2:66
- “The sea gave up the dead who were in it, **and Death and Hades delivered up the dead** who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**”-Revelation 20:13-15

The Prophets As Examples

- The prophets were prime examples of patience in light of the Lord’s appearing.
- They spoke in the name of the Lord and suffered for their message.
- Stephen said: “Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers...” Acts 7:52

- “Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you.... “To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven”-1 Peter:10&12
- If the Old Testament prophets were faithful through various trials, even though they didn’t receive the promise of Christ in the flesh, how much more should we be patient now that we have Christ!

The Prophets Remind Us That God Cares

- Elijah announced to King Ahab that there would be a drought in the land.
- Elijah himself had to suffer in that drought.
- God cared for Elijah and gave him victory over the priests of Baal.
- “The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you”.

Most Of The Prophets Endured Hardships

- Daniel was thrown to the lions (Daniel 6). Although Daniel is not considered a prophet because he never prophesied about anything but was an example of Godly leadership in the midst of an ungodly world.
- Elijah barely escaped with his life from Jezebel (1 Kings 19)
- Zechariah, son of Jehoida, was stoned to death (2 Chronicles 24)
- Isaiah was sawn in half (Jewish tradition)
- Jeremiah was thrown into an abandoned well to die (Jeremiah 38:6)

Why Mention The Prophets?

- “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”-**Romans 15:4**
- The better we know the Bible, the more God can encourage us.
- It is through the reading of the Bible that we see the character of the Lord and His compassion and mercy.

James 5:11-12

“Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful. 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.”

Job

- Job loses wealth, family, and health.
- Job's wife stays with only to instruct him to commit suicide.
- Job's friends are telling him that it His fault that bad things are happening to him.
- God humbles Job and demonstrates His compassion and mercy by restoring Job back to his original status.
- It is from Job's life that James is instructing believers to persevere because we read what the Lord had intended for Job: Restoration.
- "If a man were to attack me with a knife I would resist him with all my strength, and count it a tragedy if he succeeded. Yet if a surgeon comes to me with a knife, I welcome both him and the knife; let him cut me open, even wider than the knife-attacker, because I know his purpose is good and necessary."-Spurgeon

God is Compassionate and Merciful

- "God was **very compassionate and merciful** to Job because He only allowed suffering for a *very good reason*.
- God was **very compassionate and merciful** to Job because He *restricted* what Satan could do against Job.
- God was **very compassionate and merciful** to Job because He *sustained* Him with His unseen hand through all his suffering.
- God was **very compassionate and merciful** to Job because in the whole process God *used* Satan himself. At the end of it all, God had accomplished something wonderful: To make Job a *better* and more *blessed* man than ever. Remember that as good as Job was at the beginning of the book, he was a *better man* at the end of it. He was better in character, humbler, and more blessed than before."-Guzik

Let Your Yes Be Yes And Your No Be No

- The need to swear or make oaths, beyond a simple and clear yes or no betrays the weakness of one's word. It demonstrates that there is not enough weight in one's own character to confirm their words.
- The Quakers were the first to put price tags on items they sold. Most people used to bargain for the best price but the Quakers based on this verse said said we will stand firm in what we said the price will be.
- This lack of character will be exposed at the judgment seat of Christ. This motivates us all the more to prepare for that judgment by our speaking with integrity.

- "But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."-**Matthew 5:34-37**

- Be committed to what you say.
- Be careful to what you say.
- Have integrity in your speech to people.
- Swindling people, makes them into fools.
- “It is good for nothing,” cries the buyer; But when he has gone his way, then he boasts.”- Proverbs 20:14

James 5:13-15

“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 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. 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.”

The Way Of Relief

- James tells the people if they are suffering to pray not accuse or blame God for what you are going through.
- If we accuse and blame God for what we are enduring it will not help our relief from suffering.
- Only prayer can help relieve suffering.
- This echoes what James has already addressed in chapter one when he advised the people: “If any of you lacks wisdom, **let him ask of God**, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.”-James 1:5-6

The Way Of Praise

- James tells the people if they are cheerful then they should celebrate with praise to God by singing songs.
- I would say that we should both pray and praise when we are going through a difficult time.
- It is hard to stay depressed when a person sings.
- James's emphasis on prayer and praise in these verses helps develop a foundation for enduring difficult times with perseverance. Perseverance when life throws a curve ball at is also a prayerful and worshipful life.

Thoughts About Sickness

- There are two categories of sin: Original sin and personal sin.
 - **Original sin** is the inherited sinful nature that we received from Adam.
 - **Personal sin** is the acts of disobedience we commit by choices we make.
- Original sin after the Fall brought with it sickness and suffering.
- Sometimes there is a relationship between personal sins and sickness.

- Sometimes there is no relationship between personal sins and sickness.
- It is not God's will that everyone be healed of sickness in this fallen world.
- In the ancient mind sin and sickness went together.
- "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned".-**Romans 5:12**
- "God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?"-**Hebrews 2:4**

- "And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his malady was severe; yet in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but the physicians."-**2 Chronicles 16:12-14**
- In our age of science with all modern discoveries we should still remember to go to the Lord with our sickness first. At the same time seeking out medical help knowing that God works through the doctors as well.

The Prayer Of Faith

- This is probably the most misunderstood phrase in the Bible. There are some people who believe that the reason people are not healed is because they lack faith.
- We know that Jesus, "was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."-Isaiah 53:5
- There is no basis in Scripture for the popular idea that praying in faith means praying with confidence that something will happen just because we pray.

- “Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”-2 Corinthians 12:8-10

- Some take the "faith" in view here as a special God-given confidence that it is His will to heal.
- "It is a prayer of faith, i.e. the prayer which expresses trust in God and flows out of commitment to him, for only such prayers are effective . . ."-Davids
- The prayer of faith is to be offered in obedience to the Biblical directive to go to God with our sickness. And then, leave it in God’s hands to heal or not heal depending on His will and purpose for our life.
- Faith is the unwavering confidence in the Personality of God, not in His power.

Anoint With Oil

- Burdick and others suggest that the word for **anoint** here is not the usual one used in the New Testament but has more of a medicinal meaning to it.
- The "oil" provided more refreshment and soothing comfort than it did real relief for serious ailments, but people drank it as well as rubbing it on themselves as a medication.
- “And they [the disciples] cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.”-Mark 6:13

- “So he [Samaritan] went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.”-Luke 10:34
- “The Roman Catholic Church mutated this command to anoint the sick into the “sacrament” of Extreme Unction, administered to someone to prepare that one for death. Something James intended to heal was made into a preparation for death!”-Guzik
- It is not about the person but the Lord as James says “anoint...in the name of the Lord”.

James 5:16-18

“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. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”

Confess your faults

- The word used here for “trespasses” is the Greek word *“paraptōma”* and means to “fall beside or near something or to lapse deviate or from truth and uprightness”.
- The idea that James is attempting to communicate is that we all have shortcomings and hang-ups and confession can begin to heal and free from heavy burdens.
- “We must never confess sin beyond the circle of that sin's influence. Private sin requires private confession; public sin requires public confession. It is wrong for Christians to 'hang dirty wash in public,' for such 'confessing' might do more harm than the original sin.”-Wiersbe

Elijah

- Elijah was not any different from us in that he had “a nature like us”.
- Elijah was persistent in his praying to the Lord.
- James is communicating through Elijah that prayer is a tool that should be used in life of a believer.
- It may seem strange but God is influenced by our prayers.

Effective And Fervent Prayer

- Prayer that is fervent is to pray with enthusiasm.
- It doesn't mean we have to be loud or long when we pray.
- “It is only when a man flounders beyond any grip of himself and cannot understand things that he really prays.”-Chambers
- Effective praying is praying according to the will of God.
- “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”-1 John 5:14

Thoughts about Prayer

- Prayer develops the life of God in us.
- The Bible idea of prayer is to bring about God's purpose into the world.
- Prayer is not a means to getting things from God but in order that we may get to know him.
- God always answers pray but the answers will not be in accordance with our nature but His.
- The righteous man James is referencing is a believer praying in the name of Jesus. It is Jesus that makes us righteous.
- Sometimes when we pray things seem not to change but prayer changes me and then I become involved God's answer.

- God answers prayer on the ground of His redemptive purpose in this world.
- It is not prayer that is hard but the overcoming of our laziness.
- The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.
- The basis of prayer is not what it costs us but what it cost God to enable us to pray.
- When we pray it should be with simplicity and to the point.
- The manifestation of answered prayer is a mere matter of God's sovereignty.

James 5:19-20

"Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 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."

Wandering From The Truth

- As James comes to the close of his epistle he emphasizes the importance of restoring those who wander from the truth.
- The restoring of people who have been led astray is an important element in Scripture.
- "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."-**Galatians 6:1**

- "keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh."- **Jude 1:21-23**
- It is important to God to restore people back into a right relationship and as believers we are used by God to make that happen.
- All too often we are only concerned with our own problems and the restoration process is ignored.

- "The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them."- **Ezekiel 34:4**
- **Those who do not have the Spirit of God do not deal with this sense of broken and weakened life that causes a person to wander.**
- **We have to be careful in our own life that we are not stubborn in our heart but are open to correction and transformation.**

Do People Fall Away

- Is James talking about backsliding believers, or is he talking about evangelizing those who do not know Christ?
- There needs to be caution when coming to a difficult passage because there is a temptation to read into the passage with our preconceived ideas instead of trying to understand what the passage is trying to say to us.
- "We come to this passage ourselves with the intention to read it with the simplicity of a child, and whatever we find therein to state it; and if it may not seem to agree with something we have hitherto held, we are prepared to cast away every doctrine of our own, rather than one passage of Scripture." (Spurgeon)

The Different Views Of Eternal Security

- A believer has the possibility after being enlightened to fall away from grace.
- A believer has no possibility of falling away from grace because he did not really have an understanding of the Lord fully but only a partial experience with Him.
- The holiness movement states that these believers were not yet sanctified
- All too often people use the falling away scenario to condemn a believer or make them feel condemned thus living in a state of insecurity.

Jesus Sacrifice Is Once And For All

- "By that will [His Father's will] we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."-Hebrews 10:10-14

We As Believers Are Complete In Him

- "'Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.""- John 6:28-29
- "'And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.'" - John 6:40

- "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day."-John 6:39
- "...that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none.""-John 18:9
- "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.-Jude 24-25

Commentary Thoughts

- Christians can backslide, tear down the foundation of repentance that is already laid. Should they ever again be admitted into the church, they will have to build again the foundation of repentance and do their first works again....Christians can fully apostatize from Christ, completely reject Him and His atoning work, so that it is impossible to renew them again to repentance."-Dake's Annotated Reference Bible

Can Believers Forfeit Their Salvation?

- This question is one of the most talked about thoughts, I believe, in Christianity.
- “Am I saved?”
- “Am I sure that I am saved?”
- “If I am saved can I at any moment lose my salvation?”
- “If I can lose my salvation what sin will I commit that will be the final sin that makes me lose my salvation?”
- “How far do I have to fall before I’m gone?”
- “If I can’t lose my salvation am I using the grace of God as freedom to live the way I want?”

The Proper Questions

- How is a person saved?
- Is salvation relying upon me or upon Jesus?
- By virtue of the fact that you could lose it, would mean that keeping salvation would depend upon your efforts or actions. In other words, a person who says that he can lose his salvation for whatever reason, is in reality saying that he is trusting in human works to save himself.
- “for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, that no one should boast.”-**Ephesians 2:8-9**
- Salvation is not of works; therefore a person who is trusting in his works is not and will not be saved.
- “Most certainly, I tell you, he who believes in me has eternal life.”-**John 6:47**

Three Things About The Wanderer

1. He wanders away from the truth
 - “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”- **John 8:32**
 - Truth brings freedom because it is centered in Jesus. But if a person wanders from the truth is subjected to bondage once again.
2. The error of his way
 - “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.”-**Galatians 1:6-7**
 - “For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.”-2 Peter 2:18-19
 - To wander away seems to speak of being lead astray into a false doctrine.

3. The path of the wanderer is leading him in the way of death.
 - “What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.”-**Romans 6:21-22**
 - “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”-**1 Timothy 4:16**
- “Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.”-**Hebrews 13:9**

Cover A Multitude Of Sins

- The repentance and restoration of the sinning believer "**covers**" or results in the forgiveness of his or her sins.
- This description of forgiveness is from the Old Testament where the Jewish priests described sin as covered when forgiven.
- "James concludes with this because this is exactly what he has endeavored to do through this challenging letter – to confront those who have wandered from a living faith, endeavoring to save their souls from death, by demanding that they not only hear the word, but do it, because a living faith will have its proof."-Guzik