

UNTIL OUR LORD COMES

JAMES 5:7-9

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Patient here means “to endure patiently as opposed to losing faith or giving up.” Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament, 939. We become like what or who we worship. See **I John 3:2**.

BE PATIENT LIKE A FARMER. A farmer, in anticipation of harvest, plants his seeds and patiently waits. “The value of the harvest justifies his patient waiting.” D. Edmond Hiebert, The Epistle of James: Tests of a Living Faith, p. 297. Your worship of the Lord gives you patient hope for immeasurable value at His coming. (**James 5:7, fn 5:7, 8, I Thessalonians 4:13-5:5, fn 4:13ff, fn 4:15, fn 4:15-18, fn 5:1-3, I Corinthians 3:10-15, fn 3:13-15**) *What will determine the size of your harvest when you meet Jesus?*

BE PATIENT TO ESTABLISH YOUR HEART. Patience to withstand temptations and life’s difficulties requires daily time spent in the Scriptures, worship, and prayer to strengthen your heart. “So it was as true in James’s day as it is in ours: we need to *be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.*” Douglas Moo, The Letter of James, p. 224. (**James 5:8, I Thessalonians 3:13, fn 3:13, I Corinthians 15:50-58, fn 15:50-53, fn 15:51, 52, I Peter 1:3-9**) *How could daily time spent in worshipping the Lord Jesus help get you ready to meet Him?*

BE PATIENT WITH ONE ANOTHER. “Grumbling and complaining are the praise words in the religion of ‘I.’” Malcolm Smith. If you accept people the way God has accepted you, then you will be patient with them. (**James 5:9, fn 5:9, Romans 15:5-7, fn 15:5-7, Revelation 12:10, fn 12:10, Philippians 2:14-16, fn 2:14-16[1st], fn 2:14-16[2nd]**) *How does your relationship with others demonstrate your readiness to meet the Lord?*

Check up—How is your relationship with your neighbor, your spouse, and your Lord?. Do your actions show you are being led by the Holy Spirit?