

Living Under Wealthy Oppressors

James 5:1-11

A. The Calling of the Rich to Mourn. 5:1.

1. The mourning of the rich:
2. The misery of the rich:

B. The Catastrophes of the Rich. 5:2-3

1. In the present 5:2-3a
 - a. The decay of their foodstuffs:
 - b. The decay of their clothing:
 - c. The decay of the precious metals:
2. In the future 5:3b
 - a. The testimony of materialism:
 - b. The damnation of materialism:
 - c. The time-frame of materialism:

C. The Evils of the Rich. 5:4-6

1. Withholding pay. 5:4
 - a. The labor performed:
 - b. The pay withheld:
 - c. The damning testimony:
 - d. The fearsome Judge:
2. Luxurious living. 5:5
 - a. Their life of luxury:
 - b. Their life of pleasure:
 - c. Their coming judgment:
3. Subverting the judicial process. 5:6
 - a. Their subversion of the legal system to eliminate innocent victims:
 - b. The helplessness of their victims:

D. The Necessary Attitude of the Christian: Be Patient (under the Harassment of the Wealthy) until Christ's Return. 5:7-11

1. The command of patience. 5:7
2. The illustration of patience (the farmer). 5:7
3. The application of patience to the Christian. 5:8
4. Information
5. Parallel passage. Titus 2:11-14
6. The push for patience. 5:9
 - a. The warning:
 - b. The reason for the warning:
 - c. The nearness of the Judge:
7. The point ...
8. The examples of patience. 5:10-11
 - a. The prophets 5:10-11a
 - 1) The example: 5:10
 - 2) The commendation: 5:11a
 - b. Job 5:11b
 - 1) The patience of Job:
 - 2) The compassion of God
9. Life Lessons from James 5:1-11
 - a. Leave the wicked wealthy for God to judge.
 - b. Patiently wait for the coming of Jesus.
 - c. Don't complain against fellow-Christians - the Judge is almost here!
 - d. Patiently endure suffering. Count on the Lord's compassion and mercy.
10. In a nutshell: When we encounter opposition, we should trust in the mercy of God!

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