**PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIVING**

**A Study of the Book of James**

(James 5:7-11 - Be a Job)

*“Patience - The Impossible Virtue?”*

Introduction: “Patience is a virtue!” You’ve heard it said. Why do people say that?

**5:7-8 Be Patient in Waiting for the Coming of the Lord**

5:7 *be patient, then…* points back to 5:1-6, believers were suffering at the hands of the rich, why were they instructed to patiently wait for the Lord’s coming?

5:7 In Palestine, the autumn rains (Nov - Dec) come right after the planting of the grain and are heavier, helping seeds to germinate and sprout. The spring rains (May - June) are lighter, helping the grain ripen before harvest.

“the farmer” - As urban people we sometimes have a hard time understanding and appreciating the life of the farmer. We are busy, contemporary city-folk. We want faster computers, faster service at the bank, instant coffee, microwave meals.

How long does a farmer wait for a “harvest”?

How long are you willing to wait for God’s blessing or for God’s stepping to change a problem? Why?

5:7-8 “stand firm” - What if Satan keeps attacking? How can we stand firm and be patient? (see Ephesians 6:10-16)

**5:9-11 Be Patient with One Another in Enduring Evils**

5:9 What causes “grumbling against each other”?

How would you go about repairing a relationship that is characterized by “grumbling against each other”? (Go once again to Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Do the Savior’s words in Matthew 7:3-5 shed light on your answer?) Also, check Ephesians 4:29-32.

What steps can be taken by a congregation that recognizes internal “grumbling”?

How would you suggest the members of that congregation go about building unity?

“the Judge is standing at the door” = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5:10 The prophets didn’t grumble. They spoke the words of the Lord even in trials.

*examples*:

Isaiah 12:1-6

Lamentations 3:1-3, 21-26

Hosea 2:19-20

5:11 Note: Job was not patient but persevered, what’s the difference?

Job 1:20-22

Job 2:9,10

Job 13:15

Job 19:23-27

*perseverance* – Romans 5:3-5

What did the Lord finally bring about for Job? (Job 42:10-17)

In what ways might the Lord answer our cries for the virtue of patience or perseverance in our suffering (physical, emotional, spiritual suffering)?