

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How important is patience in our lives? How long are we to be patient?
2. What does it mean to “grudge not one against another”? How can this grudging affect us spiritually?
3. How does the trying of our faith work patience?
4. How can verse 16 affect the relationship between you and your brother or sister?

SUMMARY:

We are given the example of a farmer who plants seeds then patiently waits for the harvest. In Christian work, we must learn that only God can make the seed of our labors bear fruit. In prayer we again must wait patiently on the Lord. Often a delayed answer to prayer is necessary to prove our faithfulness. Likewise our asking for forgiveness may not be answered immediately as a test of our sincerity and our faith in Jesus. “He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” (Psalm 126:6)

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #11

March 16, 2003

First Quarter

CHRISTIAN PATIENCE

LESSON TEXT: *James 5:7-20*

LESSON SETTING: Written by James addressed to the converted Jews.

TIME: Approximately 60 AD

I. PATIENCE ENCOURAGED. James 5:7-9

- A. Patience necessary (vs. 7) Hebrews 10:36; James 1:4
- B. Be Steadfast (vs. 8) Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 12:1
- C. Wait on the Lord (vs. 9) Psalm 37:7; 40:1; Acts 1:4

II. PATIENCE ILLUSTRATED. James 5:10-12

- A. By Prophets (vs. 10) Hebrews 6:13-15; 11:25
- B. By Job (vs. 11)
- C. By Believers. 2 Thessalonians 1:4

III. PATIENCE IN PRAYER. James 5:13-20

- A. An answer promised (vs. 15) Psalm 91:15; John 15:7
- B. Pardon Promised (vs. 15) Isaiah 55:7; 1 John 1:9
- C. Spiritual Healing Promised (vs. 16) Hosea 6:1; Luke 4:18

GOLDEN TEXT: *BE YE ALSO PATIENT: STABLISH YOUR HEARTS: FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD DRAWETH NIGH.*

James 5:8

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Jude 1-25

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Genesis 19:1-29;
Deuteronomy 9:7-24;
1 Corinthians 10:1-12

QUARTERLY THEME: The First Church Officers

TOPIC: CHRISTIAN STEADFASTNESS

INTRODUCTION:

Jude, who describes himself as a servant of Jesus Christ, is generally believed to be Judas, the brother of Jesus, the son of Alphaeus (see Matthew 10:3; Luke 6:15-16; Acts 1:13). He wrote very much in the same style as 2 Peter is written, but while Peter's epistles were written to churches in specific areas, Jude's epistle is written to Christians in general. It was written after 2 Peter, but probably before the devastation of Jerusalem.

It was written to encourage believers to hold the faith and walk the Christian life after the example of Jesus Christ. It was written to warn against corrupt teachers and doctrinal heresies. These men are grumblers and blame others, following their own evil desires, bragging about themselves and flattering others in order to get their own way. They have followed the way that Cain took; they have given themselves over to error for the sake of money, as Balaam did.

He concludes with an exhortation to build ourselves up in the most holy faith and to continue in prayer. We are to keep ourselves in the love of God and wait on Him for our eternal salvation. We are to be active in presenting the gospel as soul-winners trusting in Him who is able to keep us from falling and to present us faultless and joyful before the presence of His glory.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Our faith is the anchor that holds us steady through the fiercest storm.

GOLDEN TEXT: *THEREFORE, MY BELOVED BRETHREN, BE YE STEADFAST, UNMOVEABLE, ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD, FORASMUCH AS YE KNOW THAT YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD.* 1 Corinthians 15:58

Whenever we do any work we need a reason for doing it. If we cannot see a purpose in what we are doing, it becomes drudgery and is never done to the perfection that the task deserves. When we have an incentive, whether it is personal accomplishment, the desire to please someone, or whatever it may be, we find the purpose, zeal and strength to fulfill our labors.

Likewise in the work of the Lord, we may be discouraged and be ready to give up when we cannot see any results from our labors. How wonderful and what an encouragement to be faithful, with an unfailing zeal and motive, to know that our work of the Lord is never in vain in the Lord. How many down through the years have found courage to go on in the Lord's work through the words of this verse? May we too go on and fight a good fight of faith.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF March 17 - 23

M. Basis for Steadfastness. Matthew 7:21-29
T. Dangers to Steadfastness. 1 Corinthians 10:1-12
W. *Need of Steadfastness. Jude 1-9
T. *Enemies of Steadfastness. Jude 10-16
F. *Source of Steadfastness. Jude 17-25
S. Admonition to Steadfastness. 2 Timothy 3:10-17
S. Reward of Steadfastness. 2 Timothy 4:1-8