

**INTRODUCTION: WE HAVE NEED OF ENDURANCE** (5:7f; see Heb.10:35; see 12:3f; Gal.6:9)

**I. THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS** (James 5:7-12)

**A. THE SAINTS: BRETHERN** (5:7,9,10,12; see Col.1:2)

**B. DEFINITION: PATIENT ENDURANCE**

1. suffering (5:10; Mt.5:11f; see Jms.5:1-6; 1:2f,12f,27; 2:6,7; 16; 3:9,13f; 4:2f; see 1Pt.2:29; 4:12f)
2. patience: not provoked to start evil (5:7a,b,8,10; see 1:19f; 1Cor.13:4; 1Th.5:14; 1Pt.4:4; 2Pt.3:9; see Ex.34:6)
3. endurance: not provoked to stop good (5:11a,b /1:3,4,12; Gal.5:7; 1Cor13:7; Rom12:12; Heb12:2,7; 1Pt2:20)

**C. MOTIVATION: THE END** (see Heb.6:15)

1. the imminent coming of the Lord (5:7,8; see 1Th.3:13; 5:23; 2Th.2:1f; Rev.22:20)
2. the impending final judgment (5:9,12; see Jn.5:22f; Rom.2:5f; 2Cor.5:10; 2Tm.4:1)
3. the hope of blessing (5:11; see Mt.5:10f; 1Pt.3:14; 4:14)

**D. CONFIDENCE: THE PROVED REVELATION OF THE VERY BEING OF GOD** (5:11; see Ex.34:6; Job 38-42; see Ps.86:15; 103:8; 145:8)

**E. MEANS**

1. strengthen your hearts (5:8; see Ps.119:49; Rom.4:19f; 2Th.2:17)
2. shut your mouths (5:9 (3:9; 4:11; Eph.4:29 /Ps.6:6; Gal.5:15) and 5:12 (Ex.20:7; Mt.5:33 /1Th.5:27))

**F. ILLUSTRATION: FARMER** (5:7; see Ps.126; Heb.6:15; 1Cor.3:6f; see Jms.5:8 w/Gen.8:22)

**G. EXAMPLES**

1. general: the prophets (5:10; see Mt.5:12f; 6:19f; Heb.11:32f; 12:23)
2. particular: Job (5:11; see Job 2:3,9; 42:1f (1:8; 2:3; 42:7,8); Ezk.14:14,20)

**II. THE DOCTRINE OF PERSEVERANCE**

**A. AUTHOR: GOD** (5:11; see Phil.1:6; 2:12-14)

**B. NEED: TEMPTATION, SIN & DEATH** (5:10; see Mt.4:1f; Heb.12:1f; see c.10-12)

**C. OBJECTION: INVITES INDOLENCE** (5:7f; see Heb.12:12f; 1Cor.9:24-27)

**D. IMPORTANCE: FINISH THE RACE** (5:7f; see Mt.10:22; 24:12f; Gal.6:9; Heb.12:3; 2Tm.4:5-8)

**III. PATIENTLY ENDURE TO THE END!** (Jms.5:7-12; see Ps.119:32)

**A. YOU WILL SUFFER** (5:10; see 2Tm.3:12; Tt.2:12; 1Pt.2:11f; 20f; 3:14f; 4:12f)

**B. YOU MUST PATIENTLY ENDURE IT** (5:7f; see Heb.12:1f; 1Cor.9:24; Mt.10:22; 24:12f)

**C. YOU WILL REAP BLESSING** (5:10,11; see Gal.6:9; 2Tm.4:7f; Heb.12:2)

**D. YOU ARE ON THE HOME STRETCH** (5:8,9; see Lk.18:7; Heb.12:1f; Rev.22:20)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP**

*Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.*

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. In what ways do you suffer? Do you suffer mostly for doing what is wrong or doing what is right?
4. Are you ever tempted to start evil? Why? How do you overcome?
5. Are you ever tempted to stop good? Why? How do you overcome?
6. Do you believe that the Lord Jesus is coming to judge the world?
  - a. How does this faith affect your daily life in thought, word and deed?
  - b. Do you look forward to His coming with dread or longing? Why?
  - c. How confident are you of His coming? Of His coming soon (i.e., "next")?
  - d. Why is it irrational to abandon faith and faithfulness now?
7. How do you strengthen your hearts?
8. Do you complain against your fellow Christians? If so, how? Why? If not, how not? Why not?
9. How does the farmer illustrate these truths? How should be like the farmer?
10. How do the prophets exemplify these truths? How should we imitate the prophets?
11. How does Job exemplify these truths? How should we imitate Job?
12. What is most harmful to your perseverance? What is most helpful to your perseverance?