

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 7th June 2020
Sermon Title: The Character of God's Family: patience and steadfastness
Bible Passage: James 5: 7 - 12

Introduction

- Make a list of things you know or passages about the second coming of Jesus.
- How do these verses encourage you in your faith and instruct the way you live?
- Is this something you think about? A lot or a little?

Recapping the Preach

Take time to read the passage again, perhaps read it a few times from different versions:

- How would you summarise the key message of the passage?
- Is there anything in this passage that surprised you?
- Was there anything in the passage or preach that you found yourself resisting, pulling away from or wrestling with what is being said?

Stu pointed out that the current pandemic and its impact on us calls for patience and steadfastness. He asked two questions: How are you bearing up? How are you responding?

- What are your responses to these questions?

He went on to point out that in vs.9 & 12 James points out that we shouldn't grumble or swear and make oaths to God.

- Do you ever find yourself tempted to do these things?

James' main encouragement for being patient and steadfast is connected to the second coming of Jesus and points out that Jesus will come as both Judge and Lord. Stu highlighted the truth that we will welcome Jesus as both and that this should encourage us to be patient and steadfast in life. As Judge, Jesus provides steely encouragement to steadfastness. As Lord, Jesus provides strengthening comfort to be patient.

- Read Romans 14:10 & 12 and 2 Corinthians 5:10. How does the idea of standing before the judgement seat of God, giving account make you feel?
- How does it encourage you to live now?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 - how does this passage encourage us to live?
- Read Philippians 2:9-11 - how does this passage make you feel and encourage you?

Stu quoted another preacher who said, 'We must never forget that we have a future hope which is tethered to a brutal fact - we live in a world infected by sin and suffering, in which Christians are not exempt'.

- Do you agree/disagree with this statement? Why?
- How do you reconcile passages like Psalm 91:5-7 with our everyday experience?
- Do you find, thinking about the second coming of Jesus, helpful? In what way?

Stu closed with the practical application taken from the agricultural metaphor and suggested that we should: sow, pray, eat the grain of God's Word and harvest.

- Which of these are you practicing?
- Which do you need to work on?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?

Prayer pointers

- Pray for one another for patience and steadfastness in trial.
- Pray for the church that we would be patient and steadfast in all God has called us to.
- Pray for those who are currently in a season of trial and struggle.
- Pray for our world.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>