

## James 5:7-9

**7-8.** Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how **the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth**, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. **ESTABLISH your HEARTS, for the COMING of the Lord is at hand.**

- **I Thessalonians 2:19** "For what is our \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ at His \_\_\_\_\_?"
- **I Thessalonians 3:12-13** "And may the \_\_\_\_\_ make you increase and abound in \_\_\_\_\_ to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ with all His saints."
- **Matthew 25:31** "When the \_\_\_\_\_ of Man \_\_\_\_\_ in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory."
- **I Peter 4:7** "But the \_\_\_\_\_ of all things is at \_\_\_\_\_; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers."
- **Deuteronomy 11:14** "Then I will give you the \_\_\_\_\_ for your land in its season, the \_\_\_\_\_ rain and the \_\_\_\_\_ rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil."
- **Joel 2:23** "Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for He has given you the former \_\_\_\_\_ faithfully, and He will cause the \_\_\_\_\_ to come down for you - the \_\_\_\_\_ rain, and the \_\_\_\_\_ rain in the first month."

**Definition: "ESTABLISH your HEARTS, for the COMING of the LORD is AT HAND"** - We need to "establish our hearts" or in other words, be strong in our faith and right in our walk with the Lord, because **Jesus is coming back soon** (that is what is meant by "the coming of the Lord is at hand"). Jesus preached a great deal about **His RETURN or "Second Coming."** The Bible teaches us that **we can know and understand the EVENTS LEADING up to His return**, but that **NO ONE will know** the EXACT day or time (Matthew, chapters 24 & 25, Luke 17:20-37). His FIRST COMING was when He came as a baby in the manger of Bethlehem, and later, as a man, the God Man, to give His life for our sins on the cross. The 300 prophecies in the Old Testament concerning His first coming are scattered throughout the Scriptures, like precious gems that God gave to His people to collect and put together into a beautiful picture of Who the Messiah would be. **There are about 500 prophecies concerning His Second Coming**, and they are presented in the same way - scattered throughout both the Old and New Testaments. We should always use Scripture to compare and explain Scripture, so as we put together the prophecies of Jesus' return, we come up with a picture of what will happen, and approximately when it will happen.

- **Romans 13:11** "And do this, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, that now it is high \_\_\_\_\_ to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation (the return of Christ) is \_\_\_\_\_ than when we first \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Matthew 24:3** "Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, \_\_\_\_\_ will these things \_\_\_\_\_? And what will be the \_\_\_\_\_ of Your \_\_\_\_\_, and of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_?'"
- **Matthew 24:14** "And this \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom will be preached in \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ as a witness to all the nations, and \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_."

- **Matthew 24:36** "But of that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ no one \_\_\_\_\_, no, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

**Definition: "The FARMER waits for the PRECIOUS FRUIT of the EARTH"** - The "farmer" is God the Father (see John 15:1), and **He is waiting patiently for His harvest**. The harvest represents the return of Jesus Christ and **the final judgment of the earth**. Jesus gave us a description of this final harvest when His disciples asked Him to explain a parable in Matthew 13 - "The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares." We don't have to wonder what this parable means, because Jesus Himself told us what each thing represents in the parable. **Jesus said "The HARVEST is the END of the AGE"** (Matthew 13:39) "...His disciples came to Him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.' He answered and said to them, 'He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. **The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom**, but the TARES are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the DEVIL, **the harvest is the end of the age**, and the reapers are the ANGELS."

- **Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43** "Another parable He put forth to them, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good \_\_\_\_\_ in his \_\_\_\_\_; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a \_\_\_\_\_, then the \_\_\_\_\_ also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, 'An \_\_\_\_\_ has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, and at the time of \_\_\_\_\_ I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to \_\_\_\_\_ them, but gather the \_\_\_\_\_ into my \_\_\_\_\_.'" "...His disciples came to Him, saying, '\_\_\_\_\_ to us the parable of the tares of the field.' He answered and said to them, 'He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the \_\_\_\_\_ are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ one. The enemy who sowed them is the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, and the reapers are the \_\_\_\_\_. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the \_\_\_\_\_ of this \_\_\_\_\_. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of \_\_\_\_\_. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ forth as the \_\_\_\_\_ in the kingdom of their Father.....'"
- **Matthew 13:49-50** "So it will be at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_. The angels will come forth, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of \_\_\_\_\_. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

**Definition: "TARES"** - "Tares" are a weed-like plant that LOOKS exactly like wheat, but of course does not have the wheat kernel, so therefore it is of no value. Jesus used "tares" as an example of people who would **APPEAR on the OUTSIDE to be saved**, and members of His kingdom, but would actually be empty and false. We have Jesus' own words that there will be **many so-called Christians in the church who are NOT God's people and have NEVER BEEN God's people** - they belong to the devil all along! These are the ones who may clean up their lives temporarily, but they continually fall back into sin, because they have never had a new birth and a heart-change. These are the ones who are MISTAKEN by many to be Christians who have "lost their salvation" and turned their backs on Christ. **These are the ones who "cause the Way of Truth to be blasphemed"** (II Peter 2:2), because they CLAIM to

be Christians, yet do not ACT like Christians, and so others judge the church by them, and say, "The church is full of hypocrites!"

- **II Peter 2:1-9** "But there were also \_\_\_\_\_ prophets among the people, even as there will be \_\_\_\_\_ teachers \_\_\_\_\_ you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ their destructive ways, because of whom the Way of Truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will \_\_\_\_\_ you with deceptive words; for a long time their \_\_\_\_\_ has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. For if \_\_\_\_\_ did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to \_\_\_\_\_; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah.....then the Lord knows how to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under \_\_\_\_\_ for the day of \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "LEST you also UPROOT the WHEAT with them"** - Lest means "for fear that" something might happen. So **God does not immediately uproot the tares** for fear that some of the wheat might be uprooted or damaged in the process. Many Christians ("the wheat") are still babies, or are still so immature and unlearned in the word of God (even though they SHOULD be mature) that they would not understand, even to the point of seriously damaging their faith, if God suddenly sent judgment on a number of people in their congregation who were supposedly "good Christians." Instead, God expects us all to grow and mature, and to **STUDY His word**, so that we will have our senses exercised **to DISCERN between the GOOD and the EVIL.**

- **Hebrews 5:13-14** "For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness, for he is a \_\_\_\_\_. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age (mature), that is, those who by reason of use (practice) have their \_\_\_\_\_ exercised to \_\_\_\_\_ both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."

**9. Do not GRUMBLE against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is STANDING at the DOOR!**

- **I Corinthians 4:5** "Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ nothing before the \_\_\_\_\_, until the \_\_\_\_\_, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and \_\_\_\_\_ the counsels of the \_\_\_\_\_; and then each one's praise will come from God."
- **Colossians 3:12-13** "Therefore, as the elect of God, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, put on \_\_\_\_\_, humbleness of mind, \_\_\_\_\_, longsuffering (patience); bearing with one another, and \_\_\_\_\_ one another, if anyone has a \_\_\_\_\_ against another; even as \_\_\_\_\_ you, so \_\_\_\_\_ also must \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Philippians 2:14-15** "Do all things without \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ in the world."

**Definition: "Do not GRUMBLE against one another"** - In Philippians 2:14-15, where it says, "Do all things without murmuring and disputing", it could also be translated, **"Do all things without GRUMBLING and COMPLAINING."** God's word says here that we will "shine as lights in the world" if we keep from grumbling and complaining like the rest of the world. Instead of "GRUMBLING and COMPLAINING

against one another" in the church, we are to forgive each other, just as God in Christ forgives us.

**Definition: "The Judge is STANDING at the DOOR!"** - Jesus came as our Savior the first time, but **His second coming will be as Judge**, to judge the world. We, as true believers in Christ, will not be judged, because our judgment has already fallen on Jesus Christ on the cross, and He took our judgment upon Himself and paid for our sins. A favorite verse we quote when talking about receiving Christ as Savior is Revelation 3:20, but if you read it in context, it is actually talking about **His judging the Seven Churches of Asia, and judging between the true believers and the false** within the churches. Jesus calls the true Believers to come in and dine with Him before He judges the false, so-called "believers."

- **Revelation 3:20** "Behold, I \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_ and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the \_\_\_\_\_, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."
- **John 5:21-24** "For as the Father \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and gives \_\_\_\_\_ to them, even so the Son gives \_\_\_\_\_ to whom He will. For the Father \_\_\_\_\_ no one, but has committed all \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in Him who sent \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_, and shall \_\_\_\_\_ come into \_\_\_\_\_, but has passed from \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Matthew 24:30-33** "Then the sign of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will \_\_\_\_\_ the Son of Man \_\_\_\_\_ in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is \_\_\_\_\_, at the very \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "The Father JUDGES NO ONE"** - Both Old Testament and New Testament speak about God's JUDGMENT of sin and this evil world, but we are told that God the Father has actually **COMMITTED ALL JUDGMENT to the Son, Jesus Christ**. Those who try to say they believe in God and serve God in SOME OTHER WAY other than through Jesus Christ, will have to **be JUDGED by the very One they rejected!** John 5:23 says that if they do not **HONOR the Son in the SAME WAY they HONOR the Father**, they are NOT honoring or worshiping the Father at all! Jesus said in John 14:6 that NO ONE can come to God the Father any other way but through Him.

- **Acts 10:42** "And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Acts 17:31** "Because He has appointed a day on which He will \_\_\_\_\_ the world in \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ whom He has ordained (appointed). He has given assurance of this to all by \_\_\_\_\_ Him from the \_\_\_\_\_."
- **John 5:26-27** "For as the \_\_\_\_\_ has life in Himself, so He has granted the \_\_\_\_\_ to have \_\_\_\_\_ in Himself, and has given Him \_\_\_\_\_ to execute \_\_\_\_\_ also, because He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."