

The Real Deal a study of the book of James *chapter 5

“The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” James 5: 16



Have you ever heard someone say at the end of a conversation or a letter, “Oh, and by the way . . .”? It usually means there is still something very important that they really want to say to you. It could be that as James concluded his letter, he remembered the whole topic of prayer and the importance of fellowship with each other. No doubt, he felt the urgency to communicate these truths. What a loss it would have been for believers through the centuries if we did not have his final “affectionate admonitions”.

READ – James 5 Read these 20 verses. Read them in a couple translations.

This chapter has 4 different topics. Give your own title to each one and try to summarize the content.

Section 1 - James 5: 1 - 6

Section 2 - James 5: 7 - 12

Section 3 - James 5: 13 - 18

Section 4 - James 5: 19 - 20

REFLECT

1. How do you think these rather harsh and direct words might apply to the church in America? And to you? Rather than “field workers”, who suffers in our culture because of self-centeredness and short-sightedness?
2. Patience and endurance – how does the counsel in chapter 5 compare with chapter 1: 2 - 4 and 12. Is there any additional motivation or information?
3. Picturing God as a Judge is not a popular idea these days? James refers to it several times throughout his letter. Why? Where else can you find this concept in the New Testament?
>>John 16: 5 - 11 Hebrews 9: 27 - 28 II Corinthians 5: 6 - 10 Revelation 14: 1 - 7 II Timothy 4: 1, 6 - 8

RESPOND – What will you remember about this letter written by James? Why do you think it is in the New Testament? Take some time to read it again, slowly, pausing to reflect on the “affectionate admonitions” that are there for you at this time in your own “journey of faith”. What do you want to do with this information? Are you willing to listen to the Spirit’s promptings and take heed?