

For Further Discussion of James 4:13 – 5:11

These questions are designed to help you further understand and apply the teaching from this passage. While this passage in James can have countless points of application, his original and intended focus centers on business practices. For this reason the majority of the question will focus on this aspect. By business I mean the methods by which one goes about acquiring wealth and accomplishing goals. This means that it motherhood is a business as much as banking, and teaching is a business as much as computer programming. Bring your specific 'business' to the discussion and let God's word instruct and encourage you.

1. The theological truth of 4:13-17 is found in verse 14. How will this truth change your life and your business?
2. Read James 5:1-6 and talk about the mindset that characterizes the rich. What is their bottom line? What is their method?

Read 1 Timothy 6:10. Since we are all drawn toward a love-affair with money, how can you protect yourself from the love of money? What safeguards and habits will you instill?

3. What is the event in 5:1-9 that James keeps looking toward that will be the great equalizer? What does patience "until" this day look like (and not look like) for the one who is going through financial hardship and roadblocks to their plans?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-6. Christian maturity is measured by love – love for God and love for others. The very first word Paul uses to describe love is patience. How are these two related? How do you practice patience?

4. Read Numbers 14, 1 Corinthians 10:6-12, and James 5:9. What, or who, do you find yourself grumbling (complaining) about at your job or at home? Why do you think God takes grumbling so seriously? In light of these passages how are you going to respond differently in those times you typically complain?