

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 7/12/20

Outline

1. Christian – be patient! wait and work hard. (v. 7)
2. Christian – be patient! be strengthened and give grace. (v.8-9)
3. Christian – be patient! model and emulate this fruit. (v.10-11)

Quotations

We don't know the day of Jesus' return. But we have absolute confidence that he will come back and he will make everything sad untrue. This is the reality of our future – whether in our lifetimes or in a future generation. And this reality empowers us to take heart and wait patiently in the face of suffering. (Supica)

From Psalm 86:

...You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
Turn to us and be gracious to us,
give us strength as we seek to grow in patience.

Understanding & Application

1. How is patience not passive? According to this text what does it look like for a Christian to be patient?
2. What are James' examples of suffering? Why are they surprising?
3. Why are trials to be counted as a joy? How does God use suffering for his glory and our good? Have you seen this in your life? What about an example from the bible?
4. Why is grumbling problematic?
5. Why is the call to follow Jesus a costly call? In what ways have you felt the "cost" to follow Jesus? (they don't all have to be "big" costs; many will be small/daily costs; taking up your cross daily) In what ways have you seen that Jesus is worth the cost?
6. What does the phrase John used "short term pessimism; long term optimism" mean?