

## **ENDURING TO THE END**

1. The word “then” connects this week’s passage with James 5:1–6. What hard times have been making James’ readers long for Christ’s return? (See also James 2:6–7)
2. Do you need to be urged to be patient as you contemplate Christ’s return? How often do you think of it? Do you ever long for it? Why or why not?
3. Why is James’ choice of farming imagery a fitting illustration of patience? What specific connections do you see between the life of the Christian and the work of the farmer?
4. In what sense has the Lord’s coming been “near” for the past two thousand years? What things will the Lord’s coming change? (Romans 8:18–25; 1 John 3:2-3; Revelation 21:1–5; 22:1–5)
5. Why do you think James 5:9 is in the middle of a discussion of the Lord’s return and being patient? What does James say will happen if you grumble against each other?
6. Grumbling is an example of how we can become impatient with one another and with the Lord. Where do you need to stop grumbling and submit to God’s process for you?
7. Who are the examples given in verses 10-11 that we are to follow? How is their example an encouragement to you?
8. What are some of the blessings that follow perseverance in the face of suffering? (*Optional: See James 1:12; Matthew 5:10–12; 10:24–25; Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26–28; 3:5, 12, 21.*)
9. Who is James quoting in verse 12? (Matthew 5:33–37) What is the gist of verse 12? How can you apply this verse to your own life?