

- ii. Chapter 2 – The Bible tells us about Job’s great PHYSICAL affliction: He had ⁷ “painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head.” (NIV) Then Job’s wife said to him: ⁹ “Curse God and die!” But Job replied: ¹⁰ “You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?” (NIV) As God enabled Job to persevere, *He can enable us to do the same!*

4. **Encouragement:** ^{11b&c} “[You] have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.” What happened to Job? He suffered LONG and HARD, but – *when God knew the time was right* – He gave Job “twice as much as he had before.” (42:10 NIV) – Over 20,000 animals/livestock and 10 more children, *not 20 because the first 10 are in heaven!*

Conclusion: As we live as Christians – *people who are forgiven in Christ and heaven-bound*, suffering will come! Even as we live in *commendable* ways: ✦ focusing on Christ at Christmas, ✦ faithfully attending Divine Service, ✦ spending serious time in the Word, and ✦ reaching out to others. Such commendable things will bring persecution! Therefore, *whenever it comes*, let us remember the **steady, unwavering patience** of → the farmer, → the prophets, → Job, and → others; then, with our focus on heaven, may God enable us to wait on the Lord with **steady, unwavering patience!** And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

“Let Us Wait for the Lord with Steady, Unwavering Patience!”

Based on James 5:7-11 NIV

3rd Sunday in Advent – 2010

December 12 → 8:15 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear believers in Jesus Christ, we live among many who → are living for today, → focus on earthly riches, → see no need for Jesus Christ, and → even take wrongful advantage of those who are clothed in His righteousness! Regarding such people, the CSSB has this description: “**The wicked rich are like cattle that continue to fatten themselves on the very day they are to be slaughtered**, totally unaware of coming destruction.” (1902)

FROM such people, life can be filled with difficulties for believers in Jesus Christ; therefore, in today’s epistle reading, James wrote: ⁷ “**Be patient [longsuffering], then, brothers, until the Lord's coming.**” In other words, “**With steady, unwavering patience endure all the wrong that men may inflict upon you.**” (Lenski, 653) Now, as we go further into the text, let us ✦ understand, ✦ receive, and ✦ benefit from *God’s Word to us* through James:

1. **Example Number 1 – The Farmer:** ^{7b} “See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.”
 - a. Planting and rain – The grain is planted in the fall; then God sends *the autumn rain* AND *the spring rain*.

- b. Patience / longsuffering – The crop will be valuable, *but the full time of waiting must take place*. Imagine a farmer in great need – *waiting and waiting for the grain to mature*; on one hand the waiting is longsuffering, but, on the other hand, it yields a valuable crop; therefore, *it's worth the wait!*

2. **Application:** ⁸ “You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble [literally – groan / sigh deeply] against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!”

- a. Living as Christians – That will bring persecution!
Jesus said: ^{NIV} **John 15:18** “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.... **The Bible says:** ^{NAS} **2 Timothy 3:12** “And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”
- b. Being patient and standing firm – Tough to do among those who *hate us and persecute us*, but God will help us; furthermore, we are encouraged to press on as we keep thinking about the “valuable crop” – *our blessed inheritance in heaven!* **We can say and believe like Paul:** ^{NAS} **Philippians 4:13** “I can do all things through Him [Christ] who strengthens me.”
- c. Not groaning – In other words, *don't blame your distress on others!* “To give way to such feelings invites judgment from the Lord.” (Lenski, 655) Instead, He *calls and enables* us to endure with ✦ patience, ✦ firmness, ✦ peace, and ✦ hope *in His promises!*

3. **Example Number 2 – Prophets and Job:** ¹⁰ “Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance...”

- a. The prophets and others – Jesus said: ^{NAS} **Matthew 5:10** “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are you when *men* cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. ¹² Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” For the prophets and many before us life was super tough, BUT – *with the blessing of God* – they continued in Christ to the very end! As they lived and suffered, *they kept looking beyond this life to their great reward in heaven!*
- b. Job –
- i. Chapter 1 – The Bible describes him as a man who was ✦ blameless, ✦ upright, ✦ fearing God, and shunning evil. He was greatly blessed with 10 children and over 10,000 animals/livestock. Then, ***on one day***, possibly ***in one minute***, Job learned that *all of his animals had been stolen or killed AND all of his children had died!* Then Job, *expressing unbelievable faith in the face of suffering*, ²⁰ “fell to the ground in worship ²¹ and said: ‘Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.’” (NIV)