

2 Nov 2014: Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

Topic: **The Christian's Patience**

Scripture Text: James 5:7-12

1. In the Epistle of James, it was written to Christians who were scattered abroad due to persecutions. They had to suffer for Christ. They were also oppressed by rich people who seemingly could enjoy the riches of this world. Temptations of the world affected the Christians too.
2. Under such severe testing, Christians are exhorted to be patient from v.7-12. It means to have a calm tranquil spirit before difficult people. The Christian is not someone who is vengeful but is non-retaliatory.
3. The Christian is to patient in waiting for the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ. His coming is sure and a certainty and there will be no delay. This expectant waiting is compared to a farmer waiting for the rain to come for the crops. Christians must always view the coming of Jesus as very near and imminent.
4. In the Christian's patience, his heart will be established and firmed. He will not be easily shaken. He will also bear no grudges against his own brethren. The examples of the prophets of God in the Old Testament to preach God's Word despite persecutions should encourage the believers.
5. In v.11, the other aspect of patience is seen in being steadfast in the midst of difficult situations. Christians are to have super-endurance and the example of Job is given. God is always very pitiful and of tender mercies to help and strengthen the believer in such difficult situations.