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GOD'S SOLUTION TO OUR MONEY PROBLEMS

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF JAMES
NUMBER 40
JAMES 5:7-8

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JAMES 5:7-8 "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

Thus far in James 5 we have studied how the reversionist allowed money to become a destructive force in his life. We have studied how there is no evil connected with the possession of money, but how evil comes from not having the capacity to handle money. If a believer is in fellowship with God and on positive volition toward Bible Doctrine, then he will develop the capacity for handling money. These two verses before us in this study show us how we can find the solution to monetary problems.

JAMES 5:7 "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain." Here is the first of two identical commands. In both verses 7 and 8 of this chapter we have the command to be patient, and in both verses, we have a mention of the Rapture of the Church. "Be patient" is an aorist, active, imperative of "makrothumeo." This is a technical word and we need to know its exact meaning. It is a compound word from "makros" and "thumos." "Makros" means long duration, and "thumos" means mind and soul. So it means to have a long mind and soul. As the word was used, it came to mean patience. In the soul is the solution to every problem of reversionism. You are saved in your soul. The soul is the great issue and the soul is the battleground in your life. Whatever happens to you, whatever happiness comes to you or whatever blessings come to you, all are related directly to your soul. You take doctrine into your soul and you store it up in your human spirit and little by little you build an Edification Complex in your mind and this leads to super grace living. Now this is the meaning of "Be patient!" No one can understand this on his own.

An Impossible Task

This command to "Be patient!" is an impossibility apart from the help of God. "Be patient!" really says this--"Instead of pushing for money, push for doctrine." This is the exact meaning of this aorist, active, imperative of "makrothumeo." It means this in both verses 7 and 8 of this 5th chapter of James. Patience is the total "capital" from which your Christian life is built. This is the life that has an erected Edification Complex and a life that has reached super grace. This is the person who has the inner spiritual resources for living the Christian life every day.

God Isn't Stingy And Doesn't Hold Back

There are those who believe that God is holding back from us all the good things he can and that God doesn't want us to be happy. Nothing could be farther from the truth. God isn't trying to hold back anything from any believer in the earth. He stands ready at any moment of the night or day to give every believer multitudes of blessings. But God will not pour his blessings out unless and until you have capacity

to receive them. If you have the cup, then God will pour. The "capital" that produces patience is Bible Doctrine in the soul. The sum total of doctrine stored in the human spirit ready for use equals patience. This is exactly the same thing as the meaning of the word "wait" in ISAIAH 40:31. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." "Wait" doesn't mean to sit down and do nothing. Wait means to exercise your mind by storing up doctrine. The "capital" for salvation is the blood of Christ. The "capital" for the Christian life is Bible Doctrine. You have to have the first "capital" before you can have the second. You have to have money in the bank in order to be able to spend money and make transactions. It is equally true that you have to have Bible Doctrine in your spiritual bank if you expect to do business with God. "Makrothumeo" is actually the command to enter super grace and to spend the "capital" which is the capacity for living the Christian life. The capacity for life and love and happiness and spiritual victory in everyday living comes from being patient.

For Believers Only

The next word in our verse is "adelphos" and it is translated "brethren." It refers to believers, members of the family of God. It refers to those who had positive volition when they heard John 3:16 and believed. It refers to those who are positive toward JOHN 20:31. "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." "Adelphos" is defined by GALATIANS 3:26. "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

Next we have the inferential particle "oun" and it means we are now reaching a conclusion. The conclusion is this--you don't have to stay in reversionism. You can move out of reversionism and move into super grace living. It takes a decision and it takes a reversal of your mental attitude. It takes the decision which is called repentance. So thus far, we have this in this verse--"Be patient, therefore, members of the family of God." "Be patient" would indicate a present tense but here we have an aorist tense, so it should be translated "have patience." It means to have doctrine stored up in your human spirit. It means to be in the super grace bracket. This aorist tense gathers up into one great whole all the doctrine you have learned through the years. So this is a command to use what you have, use what you know.

Hard To Impress Them

It is always hard to impress an unconcerned believer in reversionism, because as yet he has not realized the discipline involved here unless he follows the admonition of this verse. Later on, when the severe discipline falls, then he will be impressed.

The Limitation of Money

All through these verses James is trying to impress the believer with the principle that money cannot purchase success in the Christian life. Money is not the root of all evil, but the love of money is. Nowhere in the Bible do we find that God is opposed to money or our possession of money. The emphasis in the Bible is on the development of your capacity for handling your money. Money can buy many things, but it cannot buy love. It cannot buy friendship. Money can't buy your way

of death and it can't buy your way out of hell. These things are solved by the capacity of the soul and not by money. As long as money is your slave, then money is a great blessing. But if money becomes your master, then you've about had it. Money is a cruel master but a wonderful slave. Problems are solved by doctrine in the soul and not by money in the bank.

Next in this verse we have "unto the coming of the Lord." The word translated "unto" is from "heos" and means "until." This is a reference to the Rapture of the Church, the Resurrection of the Church. The Church began on the Day of Pentecost, as an interruption of the Jewish Age and will continue until Christ comes for his Bride.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-17 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

The Church Age is the age of the universal priesthood of all believers. In the Church Age every believer is a priest, is in fulltime Christian service and is in union with Christ and is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. In this age every believer has the completed Canon of Scripture. In this sense you are a "super grace Capitalist."

Wake Up And Look

Next in this verse we have something designed to wake up the believer and cause him to realize the importance of what is being said here. "Idou" is a demonstrative particle and it is based on the aorist, middle, imperative of "Horao" which is a verb meaning "to see." It really means "Wake up and get a good panoramic view." It means "Behold!" It means "Take a look!" It is used here to arouse attention for the coming illustration.

Look At What The Big Land Operator Does

The word "husbandman" comes from "ho georgos" and this is the word from which we get the proper name "George." In that time he was a big land operator. He was a wealthy farmer, a capitalist under the agricultural economy of that time. This man in our illustration has planted seed on the thousands of acres of his farm and is expectantly waiting for the harvest. This word "waiteth" is a present, middle, indicative of "ekdechomai" and it means to receive from another. It really means to expect to receive something. Just like you make an investment and you expect to get a profit from it. So here is a big farm operator waiting to receive a return from his investment. So here we have seen sowing, cultivation, and now the expectant waiting for the harvest. So, we have before us the picture of a successful farmer who has total confidence in the outcome of his crop. This language means that he waits with expectation.

The Precious Fruit Of The Earth

The greek words are "ton timion karpon." Fruit here means production. "tes ges" really means "of the land." So the believer, while waiting for the Rapture of the Church, grows in grace and stores up doctrine against the day of Christ's coming kingdom. The analogy is quite clear. Just like the successful farmer waits with confidence, expecting the harvest of his crop, so the believer is anxiously waiting Christ's coming kingdom.

The Long Patience

Now we have this same verb again, "makrothumeo" and again it means learning Bible Doctrine in the soul and being used in daily living. Then we have "epi autos" and it means "hath long patience over it." The word for land "ge" is feminine and therefore "autos" is feminine. So it reads like this--"Constantly being patient over it" and this refers to the land. "Until" is from "heos" a conjunction of time. "He has received" is an aorist, active, subjunctive of "lambano." This is a culmunative aorist and it means he has finally received the harvest. Early rains come from "proimon" and it refers to the rains in October to December. This is analagous to the first doctrine you learn as you begin the Christian life and begin to move toward super grace. Then we have "latter rains" from "hopsimos" and this is the rain which comes in March and April and this is the rain which guarantees the harvest. This is the rain which is analagous to the living of the super grace life. The same concept is explained in Hebrews 6:7-10. Latter rain refers to the capacity for happiness and love and victory in the super grace life.

So look what we have in this verse--

"Have patience, therefore, members of the family of God; Until the coming of the Lord (The Rapture and Resurrection of the Church). Behold the successful farmer waits with expectation the valuable production of the land, constantly being patient over it, until he has received the early and latter rain."

Summary Of This Verse

1. The command is given to the super grace believer to redeem the time by using grace provision in learning Bible Doctrine. Bible Doctrine is capital in the soul.
2. The command is the aorist, active, imperative of "makrouthumeo" is to continue as long as you live in the earth, until either the Rapture of the Church or until you are removed by death into the presence of the Lord.
3. This illustration is used here from capitalism in an agricultural economy.
4. The early rain refers to your study of Bible Doctrine as you begin to grow and move toward super grace.
5. The early rain is comparable to the growth in the Christian life all the way from conversion to entrance into super grace, no matter how long it takes.
6. The latter rains is the period of maturity of the grain and in the Christian life it is analagous to the believer entering super grace and living in the penthouse of the Edification Complex.
7. The super grace function demands total capacity from total doctrine in the soul.

A reminder--no believer ever goes from conversion to super grace apart from the help of a pastor-teacher who communicates the truth of the Word of God. Also he must have the help of a local church where there is strict academic discipline, where the Holy Spirit is the recognized power, and where the believer keeps at it until he learns the Scripture.

(The pastor never anoints with oil. When you see that in Scripture, that is an idiomatic expression referring to medical practice. It is an aorist participle and refers to medical practice.)

JAMES 5:3 "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." We now have this phrase repeated. "Be ye patient" is an aorist, active, imperative of "makrothumeo" and refers to the daily intake of the truth of the Word of God. This is the capital in the soul and is to be spent every day as you live out your Christian life. This is not the hearer but the doer of the Word. There is no growth in the Christian's life apart from the intake of the Word of God.

MONEY IN THE BANK IS MONEY YOU CAN SPEND.

DOCTRINE STORED IN THE HUMAN SPIRIT IS DOCTRINE YOU CAN USE.

This is a constative aorist, so you add it all up together and come to the conclusion. This is a command to all believers.

Now we have something added which was not in the first command in verse 7. We have the aorist, active, imperative of "sterizo" and it means to have stability. The word "heart" here refers to "kardia" and it means in your soul, and once you learn it, then you can store it up in your human spirit and have it on the launching pad, ready for use.

"The coming of the Lord draweth nigh" and this translation needs clarification. This "hoti" is a casual conjunction and really means "drawing nearer." "Draweth" is the perfect tense of "eggizo" and it means the return of the Lord keeps getting closer and closer. In other words it means the certainty of the Rapture and the fact that Christ's return to this earth gets closer and closer all the time.

Summary

The coming of Jesus Christ gets closer every day we live. The command is repeated here to remind the believer that you are going to run out of days and then your opportunity to study will be over and you can't learn anymore doctrine.