

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon notes for August 26-27, 2000**

**"Patient Till He Comes"**

**Dale Whitehead**

**James 5:7-9**

### Be Patient

"Be patient" (MAKROTHUMESATE) literally means "long-tempered" as contrasted with "short-tempered." It does not call for a passive resignation to one's fate but an attitude of self-restraint that enables one to refrain from hasty retaliation in the face of provocation.

The coming (PAROUSIA) of the Lord referred to in this passage is the event that theologians commonly call the "rapture." One day, at any moment, the Day of the Lord will arrive and God will begin to pour out His wrath upon the earth but before this can happen the church must be caught up out of this world and this event is called the rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53).

The heaviest rains in Palestine fall between December and February. Before the heavy rains are the "early" rains which come in late October and early November and are necessary for planting and seed germination. Then after the heavy rains end in February there is a brief break which is followed by lighter rains at the end of April and the first part of May which are called the "late" rains. These rains are important for the maturing of the harvest.

James, like Paul, Peter, and John looked at the personal return of Jesus Christ as imminent (Philippians 4:5; 1 Peter 4:7; 1 John 2:18).

### Be Positive

The word complain (STENAZETE) does not mean "murmur" but "sigh" or "groan." It therefore involves a feeling of criticism and faultfinding directed against others.

The judgment seat of Christ is not designed to execute the sentence of eternal damnation but rather to determine what works in our lives as true believers and worthy of reward (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Literally it reads "before the doors." The plural "doors" apparently denotes the double doors at the entrance to the judgment hall.