

1. The Foundation of Endurance

- The certainty of Christ's return is the foundation of endurance (7,8). Is he returning?
 - James originally sceptical about Jesus, but convinced (Mk 3:21, cf 1 Cor 15:7)
 - 1st coming predicted and happened. 2nd coming spoken of 300+ times in NT
- When is he coming back? "the Lord's coming is near" – 2000 years??
 - 'near' means could happen at any moment. It's the next item in salvation history.
- Could you hang on, knowing that your King is definitely coming?

2. The Fuel for Endurance

- 'until' (v7) = not just waiting for the time, but the content of Christ's return
 - a) **Review**
 - 'judge/judged/condemned' – Are Christians not forgiven?
 - Salvation not in question, but reward. (Matt 25:14-30).
 - A warning and an encouragement to be ready for Christ's review of our lives
 - b) **Reward**
 - v7 – "the farmer waits for the land to yield its *valuable crop*"
 - The reward is worth the wait, worth the endurance
 - c) **Restoration**
 - v11 & Job 42:10-17 – God restored to Job what he had lost (and much more)
 - See Joel 2:25. Could you endure loss knowing you will be more than compensated?
 - d) **Relationship**
 - v11 "The Lord is full of compassion and mercy" Job saw more of God's nature.
 - A relationship so rich that even rewards and restoration will pale!

3. The Practice of Endurance

- Christ's return means Christians should live differently in face of difficulties
 - a) **We will radiate Hopeful Anticipation**
 - Like the farmer anticipating the harvest. Do you radiate your hope?
 - b) **We will display Steadfast Endurance**
 - The prophets endured for they knew the message was true and God was worth it
 - "Stand firm" literally = "Strengthen your hearts" – How?
 - Read of the prophets and Christians of other times. Be inspired by their endurance.
 - c) **We will speak Graciously and Truthfully**
 - Under pressure, without hope we grumble, or make rash promises
 - The Christian is to be marked by hope-filled endurance, even in our speech v9,12
- Could you patiently endure if Christ was coming back to make everything right? Will you?



Welcome to our service this morning - today we are remembering Christ's death for sinners as we take part in the Lord's Supper.

If you are a Christian and haven't joined with us for the Lord's Supper before, or spoken to the elders, we'd invite you to watch, and come and speak to Mark before our next communion.

If you aren't a Christian, or not sure, we'd invite you to watch as well, and if you have any questions, speak to Mark or one of the elders afterwards.

Notices

Sunday	Thanksgiving service at Day Centre	8pm
Tues	No Bible study	
Thurs	Morning study - Sergio & Lisa's Chapter 3 of Westminster Confession of faith	10.30am
11-13th	Synod meets in Rathfriland RPC	
	Wed afternoon - Women's Fellowship Annual meeting Speaker: Miss Rachel Millar Planting the Seed - the Beginning of a bright future (Experiences with African Children's Choir)	2.30
	Wed Evening - Missionary Rally Speaker: Rev Kenneth Stewart	7.30