

Christ·ian·ly

adjective & adverb

(a) adjective characteristic of or benefitting a Christian; **(b) adverb** in a Christianly manner.

Chris·tian·ly
James 4:13–5:11

Today what Christianity is is often confused and distorted. Imperfect people with imperfect beliefs and imperfect actions have caused many to look upon Christianity with contempt. But few people take issue with Jesus. While Christians are imperfect people, they follow a perfect Jesus. So, what does it really mean to follow Jesus? What does it mean to be a Christian. Join Vintage Church as we learn from the brother of Jesus, James, and discover what it means to live Christianly.

As James begins to wrap up his letter, his emphasis remains the same—faith without works is dead. How we live our lives matters. How we treat others matters. Living for the Lord matters. Live as though you belong to the Lord, because you do.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

James 4:13–5:11

13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit” — **14** yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. **15** Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” **16** As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. **17** So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

5 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you.

2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. **3** Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. **4** Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. **5** You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. **6** You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. **8** You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. **9** Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. **10** As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11** Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

- In James 4:13-17 we see that our life belongs to the Lord. What are ways in which you live that say otherwise, that your life belongs to you?
- What are ways we can live that clearly declare our lives belong to the Lord?
- James also tells us in 5:1-6 that our stuff is not God. James (5:3) and Jesus (Matthew 6:19–21) tell us not to lay up our treasure on earth. Instead we’re to lay up our treasures in heaven. What does it practically look like to “lay up for ourselves treasure in heaven?”
- How can generosity help us fight greed?
- Why did James tell these first-century Christians to confidently wait? Why must we even today confidently wait?

- Why is patient endurance hard?
- What does patient endurance produce in us and why is this important to our spiritual growth?
- How can we remind ourselves regularly that we belong to the Lord?