

## Patient Perseverance

James 5:7-11

### I. Introduction

#### A. Patience — Suffer without complaint

B. The old timers used to sing loud and strong, “Some glad morning when this life is o’er I’ll fly away.”

C. “Buellah Land” is another one so often sung...I'm kind of homesick for a country To which I've never been before. No sad goodbyes will there be spoken for time won't matter anymore. (Chorus)Beulah Land, I’m longing for you and some day on thee I'll stand. There my home shall be eternal. Beulah Land -- Sweet Beulah Land

D. “The hymn derives from the King James Version of Isaiah 62:4; "Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate; but thou shalt be called *Hephzibah* and thy land *Beulah*; for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.” The verse is in reference to the return of the Hebrews from their exile in Babylon in which the Hebrews shall no longer be called *Forsaken*, but *Hephzibah* (My Delight Is in Her), and Jerusalem shall no longer be called *Desolate*, but *Beulah* (Married). This implies that the Hebrews have turned back to the worship of God.”

- E. When We All Get to Heaven — Sing the wondrous love of Jesus, Sing His mercy and His grace; In the mansions bright and blessed He'll prepare for us a place. Refrain: When we all get to heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be! When we all see Jesus, We'll sing and shout the victory!
- F. The author of this song, Eliza Edmunds Hewitt, was a school teacher in Philadelphia and a Christian lay worker who was deeply devoted to the Sunday school movement. Like many of the other gospel song writers during the latter half of the nineteenth century, Eliza's goal in writing her songs was to reach children and teach them the basic truths of the gospel. She dedicated this particular song to her own Sunday school class in Philadelphia.
- G. **How do we suffer without complaint?** How can we bear up under life's bombardment of burdens with strength? **The simple answer is we keep our eyes on Christ, our relationship with Him and our assured future hope in Him.**
- H. The old timers always understood that this is not the end... this too shall pass...there is coming a day when we will see and enjoy God's literal physical presence and it will make it all worthwhile.
- I. **By and By...When the Morning Comes** — We are tossed and driven on the restless sea of time; somber skies and howling

tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine; in that land of perfect day, when the mists are rolled away, we will understand it better by and by. Refrain: By and by, when the morning comes, when the saints of God are gathered home, we'll tell the story how we've overcome, for we'll understand it better by and by.

*J. When we realize there is a day coming when we will understand the trials and struggles of this life...when it will all make sense...when our struggles with sin and suffering will cease...when our faith becomes sight and our hopes are fully realized in Christ...we can faithfully endure this present suffering with great patience.*

**K. Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**

**L. This present suffering is a hopeless hell if we endure it while forgetting the strength, grace and hope we have in Christ!**

**M. Be patient brothers and sisters until the coming day of the Lord...Jesus is coming back someday soon.** He is returning in glory and splendor. We will rise to be with Him when He calls our name. Everything we do in this life is with an eye on the sky and excitement in our heart for what is to come.

## **I. In The “Meantime”**

A. **Meantime** — The time between one occurrence and another

B. **Aren’t you glad there was enough meantime between the firsthand second coming of Christ for you to be born???**

**Sometimes we are in a hurry for Jesus to come back...and rightly so...but there is a purpose in the “meantime.”**

**C. There is a reason He hasn’t come just yet...there are still things He desires to do...people to be saved and hearts to be made ready for Him.**

D. **We cooperate with God’s great work here on earth so that all he intends in the meantime might accomplished...So His will on earth is done just as it is in Heaven.**

**E. The farmer plants, works hard to cultivate the crop...but God gives the rain...He is dependent upon God for the life of the crop...He is just cooperating with God’s physical laws to see the crop grow and produce a harvest.**

**F. James 1:21 — God has planted His word within us**

G. God has planted the Gospel in our hearts and it is growing...we are maturing. We cooperate with the work of the Holy Spirit within us as He makes us more and more like Christ.

**H. God is planting the Gospel in the lives of people all around us everyday. We are to work with God...cooperating with His**

**work. We work as though it is all dependent upon us just as the farmer works as though the crop is dependent upon Him...but we know without the rain...without the rains of the Holy Spirit of God...no one is saved...nothing happens!**

- I. Work as if everything depends on you...pray knowing it all depends upon God!**
- J. This is the meantime...a period of time where we cooperate with God's work to prepare a people for Himself...to see the world saved, matured and ready for His return!**
- K. There once was a cheerful old man who asked the same question of just about every new acquaintance he fell into conversation with: "What have you done that you believe in and you are proud of?" He never asked conventional questions such as "What do you do for a living?" It was always, "What have you done that you believe in and are proud of?" It was an unsettling question for people who had built their self-esteem on their wealth or their family name or their exalted job title. Not that the old man was a fierce interrogator. He was delighted by a woman who answered, "I'm doing a good job raising three children;" and by a cabinetmaker who said, "I believe in good workmanship and practice it;" and by a woman who said, "I started a bookstore and it's the best bookstore for miles around." "I don't really**

**care how they answer," said the old man. "I just want to put the thought into their minds. "They should live their lives in such a way that they can have a good answer. Not a good answer for me, but for themselves. That's what' s important."**

L. Are you living for what you believe in? Are you spending the "meantime" well?

**M. Never think this life has no meaning...it is infinitely valuable as we cooperate with God as He prepares His bride for the wedding to come...when it will be said of us Beullah... married!**

## **I. The "Meantime" Can Be Difficult**

A. What happens when you are made to wait for something for which you are really, really looking forward to happening? You grow impatient...and what is so often the result of impatience? We begin to get short with the people around us.

B. We grumble, argue, get angry and fight when we are made to wait. Just like children excited to receive a long awaited gift, we await the glory and beauty of Heaven and a face to face encounter with our God. **In this meantime...when we face so many struggles and heartaches...our patience can grow thin and our emotions get the best of us.**

**C. James says to love one another while you wait and work.**

**Always keep in mind your relationships, the common future you have ahead and the example of those who faithfully endured suffering who came before you.**

**D. Look at the prophets...look at Job...look at the people in your own day who patiently endured suffering as they love and serve Jesus!**

**E. There is no excuse for impatience, grumbling and the sin which so often accompany both! It is a matter of choice...will you choose Jesus and receive from Him the Spirit's power unto patience or will you choose to live in what you "feel" and sin?**

**I. For the Believer: Suffering in the "Meantime" Will Never Last Nor Is It Ever Meaningless**

**A. Look at Job and the purpose of his suffering! God taught us a great deal through the patient sufferings of Job. Job learned a lot himself and grew to a deeper faith in God.**

**B. God uses the hardships in our life to our benefit.**

**C. “Malcolm Muggeridge, the Christian journalist who died in 1990, spoke for almost all serious biblical Christians who have lived long enough to wake up from the dreamworld of painlessness when he said: Contrary to what might be expected, I look back on experiences that at the time seemed especially desolating and painful, with particular satisfaction. Indeed, I can say with complete truthfulness that everything I have learned in my seventy-five years in this world, everything that has truly enhanced and enlightened my existence, has been through affliction and not through happiness, whether pursued or attained. In other words, if it ever were to be possible to eliminate affliction from our earthly existence by means of some drug or other medical mumbo jumbo ... the result would not be to make life delectable, but to make it too banal or trivial to be endurable. This of course is what the cross [of Christ] signifies, and it is the cross more than anything else, that has called me inexorably to Christ.”**

**D. Could you say the same? When have you learned the most, grown the most and become the most in your relationship with Christ? We all enjoy the good times but do we not learn the most in the hard times? Is it not true for all of us?**



- E. Our suffering, like Job's, is only temporary...it will come to an end...and someday, like Job, we will see its purpose.**
- F. God is loving and merciful. He does not want to see us suffer forever...and He never wants our suffering to be meaningless! He works all things together for our good! That we might become more like Christ!**

## **I. Conclusion**

- A. We can't make too much of the purpose of this life as long as we understand that purpose to be God's glory. We live here not to make a living and raise a family but to enjoy God and be a part of what He is doing...to raise Him up and make Him famous in the eyes of the world.**
- B. This is the great meantime and the wonderful opportunity afforded those who place faith in Christ for eternal life...a quality of life that begins at the moment we place faith in Him.**
- C. But during those moments when the meantime gets tough it is in the keeping of our eyes on our future hope in Christ that we are especially encouraged. It is as we keep our eyes on Christ and the hope of heaven that we are strengthened to love Jesus and endure with patience.**

- D. Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, Because He lives, all fear is gone, Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living, Just because He lives!**
- E. Truly it is all because He lives...Are you living your life in the light of His life? Are you enduring your struggles from a relationship with Jesus and the hope of eternity in heaven?**
- F. Have you been living as though this earthly life is your eternal home? Have your struggles replaced Christ and become your life? Are you living in the fear that this present pain will never end?**
- G. Are you living purposeless and missing the opportunity of the “meantime?”** Where has this passage hit you today? Where are you living? Is there someone you can encourage with these words? Is that someone needing encouragement and life...you?
- H. Someone once said, “Be careful that you are not so heavenly minded that you are of no earthly good.” James tells us in our passage today...allow yourself to be so heavenly minded that you understand how you might be of some earthly good.**