

BE PATIENT,

*ESTABLISH YOUR
HEARTS:*

*FOR THE COMING
OF THE LORD*

IS NEAR.

JAMES 5:8

*Search me, O
God, and know my heart:
try me, and know my
thoughts:
And see if there be any
wicked way in me,
and lead me
in the way
everlasting.*

Psalm 139:23, 24

"BE PATIENT, ESTABLISH YOUR HEART FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD DRAWETH NIGH (NEAR)" JAMES 5:8

"ESTABLISH YOUR HEART" BY KNOWING OUR PURPOSE AND GOAL OR REWARD

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our heads as we as God for understanding in our study today. This is the first of a 6-part series of lessons from James 5:8 which says, "Be ye also patient; establish your hearts (place firmly your face toward God and His way of life, not our way or the world's way of life)".

Say - Why does God want us to "establish our hearts"? The remainder of the verse answers that question for us. God says, "for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh (near)".

Say - God wants our mind and heart occupied with the preparation of making ourselves ready for His return to this earth as the most important event in our life! This thought puts everything in proper perspective or proper order in our lives.

Say - A good place to start is to realize and understand God's purpose for each of us. In the very first chapter of the Bible God gave us the answer. "...God said; Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..." Gen. 1:26. This is the goal for God's people, to be like Him. It takes a lifetime to become like Christ.

Say - With what and how do we go about preparing or "establishing our hearts" to be like Him? God teaches us "...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God", Matt. 4:4. The Bible, our instruction book, says, "...you are (made) clean through the word which I have spoken unto you" John 15:3. Why is this so, because His word brings us to pure truth; we cannot reach our goal without the truth of God.

Say - What then is our goal and reward? Christ said, "Seek first the kingdom of God" Matt. 6:33. God tells us how to reach our goal. "... if you will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant (agreement between you and God), then ye shall be a peculiar treasure (of great value) unto me above all people... And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation" (otherwise forget it He is saying), Ex. 19:5, 6.

Say - God tells us more about the reward for His people. "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end (doesn't give up), to him will I give power over the nations, And he shall rule them

with a rod of iron" Rev. 2:26, 27 (this happens at the first resurrection when God's people will be divine spirit beings sharing authority with Christ as King of Kings but one cannot achieve this reward if rebellious and disobedient to Him now).

Say - How does one "establish our hearts" and develop the character of a Righteous King? With Christ as our example, God tells us, "Take with you words (empty meaningless words), and turn to the LORD (with heartfelt sincerity): say unto him, take away all iniquity (lawlessness), and receive us (me) graciously... Hosea 14:2. This is what God wants from His people, a repentant, willing, teachable mind and heart as He molds us into a righteous King!

Say - We are to "establish our hearts" and develop the character of a righteous king by cherishing our calling and the "...joy of our salvation", Ps. 51:12. God's people are to submit our lives to Him daily. We are to worship Him and praise Him for delivering and redeeming, rescuing us out of darkness/death and bringing us into the light/truth and setting us on the "Path of Life" revealed to us by His Holy Days!

Say - We are to "establish in our hearts" that "He is the "LORD our God", there is no other and recognize we belong to Him, He owns us. He is the perfect Master; He will never lead us astray. Then God can transform or change or mold us to His image, the image and character of a Righteous King.

Say - This is how God says it, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service".

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed. How? By the renewing of your mind (complete change for the better), that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:1-2 "...renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created (you)" Col. 3:10!

Say - A healthy mind admits when we are wrong. When we can say, "Create in me a clean heart, O God (it is a life-time process); and renew a right spirit within me (if we don't "transform", He will take it from us). Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore (renew) unto me the joy of thy salvation (OUR FIRST LOVE); and uphold me with thy free (generous) spirit. (Why?) Then will I teach transgressors (sinners) thy ways (as a future king); and sinners shall be converted unto thee (then God's people will be a "Light", and show grace and

forgiveness to others, and have developed the heart and character of a Righteous King, just like the Righteous King, Christ, who forgave you and me)", Ps. 51:1-13. This is our goal!

Say - Another goal God has for us His people, "But the LORD hath taken you, and brought you forth...out of Egypt (out of sin), to be unto him a people of inheritance...Deut. 4:20. What are we going to inherit?

Say - Christ speaking to us, "Wait (be patient) on the LORD, and keep his way (not our way or the world's way), and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land (we will inherit everything God owns and He owns all things)" Ps. 37:34, Romans 8:32.

Say - In another place Christ tells us, "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God (not our will), ye might receive the promise (of eternal life)", Heb. 10:36.

Say - No wonder God told us in James 5:8, "Be patient". From what God has told us in our reading, is it worth being patient knowing our great goal when Christ returns? How can we gain patience? Christ answers that for us.

Say - The Bible teaches us how to be like Christ and how to be patient in waiting for our reward of eternal life as Kings and priests with Him.

Christ speaking through His disciples said, "...the Lord direct your hearts (mind) into the love of God (to purity, no deception of the truth of God, no evil), and into the patient waiting for Christ (If we love God, we will learn patience and follow Him no matter what suffering we encounter because we put obedience to God above all else in this world)". It is a lifelong commitment.

Christ continues, "... withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us (Don't hang around evil people because they can lead us astray because they do not have the truth of God. They live in spiritual darkness. We need to choose our friends carefully no matter our age)" 2 Thessalonians 3:5-6.

SELF APPLICATION

Say - Is it easy to remember our goal, our purpose and our reward when we go to school and or to work and on Friday our classmates and fellow employees are not talking about the Sabbath but the game or party or movie they will be attending? Is it easy to

remember our goal, our purpose when we hear dirty stories told in the hallways or lunchrooms, swearing, filthy language taking God's name in vain? How do we handle this? God teaches us what a Righteous King would do.

Say - We must set our goal way higher than the world of our friends and sometimes even our families the Bible says. Christ speaking to us says, "... seek those things which are above (He is our example), where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God (where we will sit and share authority if we are patient while reaching God's goal for each of us)".

"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth (not on little picky, mundane things such as cell phones, trucks, sports, boyfriends, girlfriends etc. Forget them they will come in their own proper time as God blesses us. Plan and think ahead for when we can become baptized and receive God's spirit, His power)".

"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God (have as little desire for the temptations of this world as a dead person has. Replace our earthly wants with the wonders of God)". Who cares about missing a game or movie when we compare it to what God has in store for each of us?

"Mortify (put to death all evil things in us) fornication, uncleanness (in a moral sense, lustful), inordinate affection (ungodly affection), evil concupiscence (desires which are forbidden of God), and covetousness (the desire to have more), which is idolatry (all these things are against the law of God and not acceptable for the character of a Righteous King, remember "Thou shall have no other Gods before Me" Exodus 20:3)".

"...put off all these; anger, wrath, malice... filthy communication out of your (our) mouth" (replace with happy thoughts of a day at the lake watching the peacefulness of a sea gull, or a mother duck and her young and think of their Creator, Jesus Christ).

"Lie not one to another ("Thou shall not lie"), seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds (when we choose to follow God or since baptism)" (replace lying with true compliments, uplifting words of encouragement).

"And have put on the new man (replace all of the above with God's instructions and laws, make His thoughts our thoughts then we

can become like Him developing the character of a Righteous King)".

"(We replace evil when we) Put on therefore, as the elect of God, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering (put them deep inside our minds and live them);

"Forbearing one another (patience), and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye".

"And above all these things put on charity (love which is the fulfilling of God's laws, Rom. 13:10), which is the bond of perfectness (why are His laws the "bond of perfection"? Because His laws are perfect and that is what will make us perfect, remember it takes a lifetime)".

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts (not evil or wicked thoughts) ...and be ye thankful (this is what will bring peace to each of us in the world we live in)".

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching ... one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord (Christ will not dwell where He is unwelcome and His way of life).

"And whatsoever ye do in word (talk it) or deed (or walk it), do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him (even in bad times)," Colossians 3:1-17.

Say - When called of God, John 6:44, it is up to each individual to take the responsibility and get close to God and remember Christ tells us, "Fear not, for I am with thee, be not dismayed: for I am they God, I will strengthen thee, yes, I will help thee (God knows all the difficulties His people go through), ..." Is. 41:10.

Say - Psalm 37 gives us more promises from God our Father and comfort. Christ speaking to us says,

"Fret not thyself because of evildoers (don't be concerned with evil doers), neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity (workers against God's laws).

"For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb". "Trust in the LORD, and do good..."

"Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" ("Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (all His instructions) and all these things shall be added unto you" Matthew 6:33").

"Commit (wholeheartedly) thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him..."

"For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD (those who are patient), they shall inherit the earth (remember keep our mind on our goal and reward)".

"But the meek (the humble) shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace (isn't this what everyone and all nations of the earth want but most do not seek God's instructions and laws to find it, will you?)".

MEMORY VERSE

"And we know that all things
work together for good
to them that love God,
to them who are the called
according to his purpose",
Romans 8:28

MEMORY VERSE FOR TOTS

MEMORY VERSE

...all things work together for good...
Romans 8:28

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS

BIBLE STORY
DANIEL

Daniel is a perfect example of one who knew what His goal or reward was. He was taken into captivity in Babylon at the young age of 12 and was tempted by many things in the pagan, Godless culture yet he never compromised obedience to God in spite of the circumstances.

Daniel knew there was only one God, the God of Israel. Soon after Daniel had arrived in Babylon, he and his other Jewish friends, were invited to share in the King's dinner. But Daniel, Hananiah, Meshal and Azariah, (their Jewish names) would not eat the meat or drink the wine and chose to eat only the vegetables at the dinner. Why did they make this choice?

It was the custom of the Babylonians to throw some of the meat and wine upon the earth as an offering to their false gods. Even though Daniel was in a culture which worshipped false Gods, Daniel obeyed the laws of the true God in spite of the circumstances. For Daniel and his friends to eat the food offered to their Babylonian Gods would have meant approval of idolatry (false Gods) which was against the Law of God.

Another instance, remember Nebuchadnezzar, who thought he was God, had erected a 90 foot gold statue and wanted the entire nation to worship and show abeyance to it each day. At the sound of a trumpet, all were to fall down and worship the golden image and whoever failed to do so would be cast into a fiery furnace.

Again Daniel and his friends refused and would not serve or worship his golden statue. Daniel, knowing that the furnace was heated seven times hotter than normal said, "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace". He knew with all his heart if we burn up we are delivered from the power of the king or if God protects us in the fire either way, He will deliver us.

The Bible tells us the "fire had no power over their bodies, their hair was not singed nor did they smell of smoke from the fire".

Daniel was committed to God and the promise of his reward. By faith they defied the king's orders to worship idols and placed their lives in the hand of a living God, the God of Israel. How about us, do we know our goal our reward and are we committed to the true God?

PLEASE FIND AN APPROPRIATE PICTURE TO COMPLEMENT THE BIBLE STORY AND BELOW ARE THE MEMORY VERSES FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL NOTEBOOKS.

MEMORY VERSE

"And we know that all things
work together for good
to them that love God,
to them who are the called
according to his purpose",
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