

ANALYSIS:

1. What crimes are the “rich men” of verse one guilty?

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2. The suffering persecuted saints are exhorted to be patient in the light of what event? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who are named as examples of suffering patiently in the name of the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How did James advise the sick during that first century?

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5. What is said about Elias [Elijah] that is a great encouragement for us to pray? \_\_\_\_\_

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

This epistle closes abruptly, without any word of farewell, but with a serious exhortation. The exhortation assumes some brothers and sisters in Christ, “brethren,” will leave the way of truth. They are said to “err from the truth.” It appears this one can be converted from the error of his way before it becomes necessary for him to be excluded from the church. If his sin is confessed to the Lord and forgiven (Pro 28:13; I Jo 1:9), he is delivered from the death of his fellowship with the Lord (Rom 8:6) and from physical death by divine chastening (I Cor 11:30). Consider that the words “one convert him” places that responsibility on fellow believers like you and me.

Are we alert to the spiritual needs of brothers and sisters in Christ? Do we notice when one has erred from the truth, or is struggling to live obediently for Christ? Do we pray for their conversion? Do we take time to counsel, encourage, challenge, guide and lead them back into the way of righteous living? The Lord has lead hurting men and women to the web site, LetGodBeTrue.com, and to visit the services at the Church of Greenville. And He may bring them into our lives in any of a thousand ways. Are we ready and willing to serve them? It will take time and effort to help them grow in grace! Look at the glorious results of conversion; the erring brother is saved from death and a multitude of sins are put away.

HELP:

1. These rich men have kept back the wages of their laborers by fraud, they have lived in pleasure and been wanton [immoral, merciless, excessive], they have condemned and killed the just (vs 4-6).
2. The coming of the Lord (vs 7-8).
3. The prophets, and Job (vs 10-11).
4. Call the elders of the church, let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord (v 14).
5. Elias [Elijah] was subject to like passions as we are, yet when he prayed it did not rain for three and one half years, and when he prayed again it did rain and the earth brought forth fruit (vs 17-18).