

“By Your Patience Possess Your Souls”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Luke 21:12-19; James 1:2-4

1. James is speaking to Christians who are undergoing persecution.
2. He exhorts them to rejoice when they are tried, because the testing of faith brings patience.
3. Patience has a work to do in our life, a role to play.

B. Patience

1. Keeps us faithful to the Lord
2. Keeps us waiting for the Lord
3. Keeps us working in the Lord
4. Brings us home to be with the Lord

C. Patience, like the wind, is not seen, but is known by what it moves.

1. “No pain that we suffer, no trial that we experience is wasted. It ministers to our education, to the development of such qualities as patience, faith, fortitude and humility. All that we suffer and all that we endure, especially when we endure it patiently, builds up our characters, purifies our hearts, expands our souls, and makes us more tender and charitable, more worthy to be called the children of God . . . and it is through sorrow and suffering, toil and tribulation, that we gain the education that we come here to acquire and which will make us more like our Father in heaven.” (Orson F. Whitney)
2. “I will not deny but that the best apology against false accusers is patient silence and sufferance, and honest deeds set against dishonest words.” (John Milton)
3. “I realized that the deepest spiritual lessons are not learned by His letting us have our way in the end, but by His making us wait, bearing with us in love and patience until we are able to honestly to pray what He taught His disciples to pray: ‘Thy will be done.’” (Elisabeth Elliot)
4. “Patience is not passive resignation, nor is it failing to act because of our fears. Patience means active waiting and enduring. It means staying with something and doing all that we can - working, hoping, and exercising faith; bearing hardship with fortitude, even when the desires of our hearts are delayed. patience is not simply enduring; it is enduring well! Impatience, on the other hand, is a symptom of selfishness. It is a trait of the self-absorbed. It arises from the all too prevalent condition called ‘center of the universe’ syndrome, which leads people to believe that the world revolves around them and that all others are just supporting cast in the grand theater of mortality in which only they have the starring role.” (Dieter F. Uchtdorf)

D. Patience in the 21st century

1. We don't want it done now; we want it done yesterday. Instant coffee, instant breakfast, pay at the pump, instant messaging, drive thru meals,

banking, prescriptions, overnight delivery; everything is here and now and fast; if we don't get it immediately, we complain about the service

2. Right now the biggest factor in the decline of investment American business and infrastructure is the demand for quick profits

E. How is patience defined in scripture?

1. Patience is hupomone - "From the root 'to bear or abide under'; cheerful or hopeful endurance, constancy, enduring, patience, patient continuance, waiting" (Strongs)

I. PATIENCE KEEPS US FAITHFUL TO THE LORD

A. It is keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus - Rev. 14:12

B. To be faithful to Jesus, we must patiently abide in His word - John 8:32, 15:4

C. To be faithful, we must abide under hardship - Rev. 2:10; James 5:10-11

D. To be faithful, we must abide without giving up - Heb. 10:38-39

II. PATIENCE KEEPS US WAITING FOR THE LORD

A. Patience keeps us watching - Mark 13:32-37

B. Patience keeps us waiting - 2Thes. 3:5; James 5:7

C. When we feel like relaxing our vigilance and briefly yielding to temptation, we must instead bear down and practice patience.

1. Will it be worth it to temporarily ease up if the Lord comes then?

III. PATIENCE KEEPS US WORKING IN THE LORD

A. The work of the Lord requires strength, and patience brings more strength

1. Isa. 40:31; Col. 1:11

B. The work of the Lord requires good influence, and patience extends our influence - Luke 8:15; Psalm 40:1-3

C. The work of the Lord requires us to teach others, and patience facilitates our teaching them in the right spirit

1. 2Tim. 2:24-25; 1Thes. 5:14

D. If we are patient in God's work, then when we get discouraged, frustrated, or tired, patience will keep us moving until the work is done.

IV. PATIENCE BRINGS US HOME WITH THE LORD

A. If we remain patient in this life, we will inherit the promises - Heb. 6:12, 10:36

B. If we are patient in well doing, God will give us eternal life - Rom. 2:7

C. If we are patient, we will see the coming of the Lord and our salvation.

1. 1John 2:28; James 5:8

D. Patience means staying to the end.

Conclusion:

A. Patience has a work to do in our life. Let patience have its perfect work!

1. James 1:4; Heb. 12:1