



Today's Sermons
 Morning: Footprints of Jesus
 Evening: Song Service

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	20
Sunday AM Worship	32
Sunday PM Worship	18
Wed. Bible Study	18
Offering	\$1330



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Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:.... 10:00am
 AM Worship...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
 Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKK
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm & Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

"Patience" Can Help Save Your Soul
 Carl Garner

Who among us has no need for patience? Parents have an enormous need for patience because of the growth and the maturing of children. We know that their "growing up" will see many obstacles, and as parents we must be patient with them as they find their way in life.

When Jesus prepared His disciples for the task that would follow His crucifixion and resurrection, He told them of the troubles that awaited them. Luke 21 tells of Jesus giving instructions to them as they prepared to take the gospel to the world. The world itself would face great "earthquakes", "famine" and deadly "pestilence" coinciding with the apostles' persecution. His people would need a huge dose of "patience".

Here we must define our terms. Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines patience as it is commonly used today: "The power to wait calmly; endurance of pain or provocation without complaint."

We can picture a father teaching a child to ride a bicycle, all the time exhibiting "patience". Perhaps it's a coach explaining how to throw, catch, or hit a baseball. It takes "patience," a quality often more easily described or observed than to practice. Yes, all today need patience, and most of all, Christians need patience.

Continued Inside

In Luke 21:16-19, Jesus tells His closest friends, His apostles, that they would face hatred, betrayal and death as they did their Master's work. But in verse 21, note the imperative: "...In your patience, possess ye your souls."

We realize that, while "wait calmly" can play a part in the Christian's life, it cannot be the entire significance of "patience" here. In fact, the Greek word that is translated "patience" carries with it an additional quality to merely "waiting". In his Expository Dictionary Of New Testament Words, W. E. Vine states that terms like "endurance, perseverance and steadfastness" better describe that thought. Someone may "patiently wait" for the outcome to be seen more clearly, but there is still the need for endurance, for perseverance in the face of the opposition they would be facing, as described in the context of Luke 21. His apostles would be opposed, deceived, imprisoned and otherwise persecuted, but they must be "patient," willing to persevere in their everyday faith efforts. They must be determined to endure whatever Satan might place in their path.

Even in our daily tasks in the business world there is a need for this kind of "patience." The salesperson cannot give up at the slightest hesitance on the part of the potential buyer. The mechanic cannot give up until the "problem" is discovered and solved. Giving up when the "going gets tough" results in failure – and failure is not to be readily accepted on the part of the Christian, the parent, the spouse, the teacher or the preacher.

Satan and his cronies do not give up easily. Often they are more diligent, more determined than those who follow Jesus. For every determined servant of Satan there must be at least one "patient" servant of Christ. He has promised that He will be with us, and He reveals to us that the gospel is "the power of God unto salvation," Romans 1:16. If we wield the "sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," Ephesians 6:17, we will have the advantage. The "power of God" is greater than any power Satan or any of his ministers may possess, Luke 1:37; 5:10; 18:27.

But – we must be "patient," steadfastly persevere in our responsibilities to our God:

- In our efforts of evangelism.
- In our standards of ethics, morals.
- In our searching, study and understanding of God's word.
- In our support of those taking the truth of God to difficult places.
- In the way we treat our family, our friends – and even our enemies.
- In the way we approach our jobs and personal responsibilities.

The effect of such an attitude? We "possess," we control, obtain and guide the destiny of our souls. And that is the "hope of eternal life" every Christian can enjoy, Titus 1:2; 3:7. Whatever you do, don't give up!

"Be Strong in the Lord"

by Don Walker

The struggles of Christianity are manifold, indeed. The challenge to be pure and Christ-like in a hellish world sometimes may even seem to be overwhelming. Yet, even in the face of conflict Christ says, "...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). We must overcome the devil's devices, whether they are manifested in the onslaught of an army or the pettiness of little people (Rev. 3:21).

Because the world is what it is and the climate in the brotherhood can be hostile at times, Paul's desire for the Colossians has great significance even today. His desire for those brethren was that they might be "increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness" (Col. 1:10-11).

In verse 9 Paul desired that they would "be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." There are so many things that can be accomplished with knowledge of God's Word. It provides faith (Rom. 10:17), equips us to overcome temptation (Matt. 4:10), builds us up and gives us an inheritance among the sanctified (Acts 20:32), and it can save our souls (James 1:21). It is also through His Word we become strengthened to fulfill responsibility. It helps us to bear trials, resist temptation, discharge our Christian duty, and live a life of faith—all of which are necessary to be Christ's. It also will lead to our maintain fellowship with our God and a recognition that behind our victories and blessings we find God's glorious power. He grants the victory for His people in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 2:14).

Yet, all of this should lead to patience, longsuffering with joyfulness. Patience is the Greek word *hupomonē* and deals with endurance, with respect to things. The man who is patient, when under a great siege of trials, who bears up and does not lose heart or courage. Romans 5:3 tells us "tribulation worketh patience." No wonder James says to rejoice in the face of trials (James 1:2-4).

Longsuffering, on the other hand, is the Greek word *makrothumia*, and it deals with endurance in respect to persons. The longsuffering man, when having to deal with injurious persons, does not suffer himself easily to be provoked by them, or to blaze up in anger. The danger, however, is to be overcome, even when we do maintain patience and longsuffering, with gloominess or sourness of disposition.

The remedy, therefore, is joyfulness, so that the Christian is able to meet all of his trials with a buoyant sense of mastery. We must be in control and maintain a joyfulness in all situations (Phil. 4:4). Satan will attack constantly and in many different ways. We each must be aware and prepared as we study our Bibles more and more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dec 13 – Preach-N-Eat and 1:30 Worship (Song Service)
- Dec 27 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Jan 10 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell