

View

The Need For Patience

PLAIN TRUTH, ROBERT F. TURNER, VOL. 5, NO. 2, APRIL, 1968

Jesus told His disciples, "In your patience possess your souls." Is there something here for me? (Lu. 21:19)

To "possess" here means to "gain" or to "win"; and refers to the preservation or saving of the soul. In the immediate context it may have reference to escaping alive out of the destruction of Jerusalem, for that was under direct consideration. But careful study of the word "patience" will convince us that this is essential to the building of character and eventual salvation of the soul in eternity.

"Patience" gives many the idea of repose; calmly, even phlegmatically waiting for the traffic light to turn green. But this is not its real meaning. Coming from a word meaning "to abide under" it more nearly corresponds to "steadfastness" or "endurance"; or our coined word "stickability." In the larger sense, we can save our souls only by being faithful to the death. (Rev. 2:10)

Patience is a virtue, added to our character as we grow spiritually. (2 Pet. 1:5-11) It must be developed, built up and strengthened; and this requires exercise. Our physical muscles will not develop properly unless pitted against opposition. We improve flabby muscles by lifting weights, knowing that as we overcome an opposing force we prepare to meet greater future obstacles. Patience needs much the same sort of exercise.

"Consider it a joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials; knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect (mature) and complete, lacking in nothing." (Jas. 1:2-4, NAS)

These verses refer not to the temptations that are due to man's own lust but to external trials that discourage, dismay and buffet us. And they affect not a fixed, unchanging truss, that bears a weight or is broken under it, with character unaltered; but these trials affect a living, pulsing, vital faith; that is made stronger, more mature in nature and character, as its sinews flex to meet the challenges of life.

The church of Christ

Meeting at 900 E. Natoma
PO Box 492
Folsom, CA 95630
916/608-4866

Elders

Forrest Brown: 530/295-9230
Randy Clark: 916/939-5066
Rich Ladd: 916/774-9048
David Posey: 530/676-9514
Dennis Reagan: 916/797-5539

Deacons

Brent Agee: 916/786-0436
Bryan Byrd: 916/351-9320
David Byrd: 916/985-6564
Barrett Cain: 916/351-0774
Michael Caisse: 530/672-2902
Jeff Clark: 916/985-8689
John Daniels: 916/985-3090
Jerry Deschler: 916/285-9115
Steve Dickey: 916/983-1071
Steven Doty: 916/933-5004
Eric Fields: 916/817-6495
David Main: 650/292-5417
Terry Raposa: 916/782-1140
Dane Scott: 916/631-7221
Russ Tarrant: 530/672-1748
Steve Thompson: 916/983-4170
Jeff Warshaw: 916/933-9399

Evangelist/Editor

David Posey: 530/676-9514
dpaulposey@mac.com

Services

Sunday Morning Assembly
9:30 AM

Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM

Classes for all ages.
Private classes arranged
at your convenience.

www.folsomchurch.com
Webmaster: Richard Harvey

Patience is not the brute strength to “take” punishment, nor a “thick skin” that may indicate only an insensitive nature. “For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.” (1 Pet. 2:20)

When our sense of justice is outraged; when we are reviled, and our instinct leaps to fight a carnal battle, then patience is taxed. Remember, “hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow his steps.” (1 Pet. 2:21-25)

By “patient continuance in well doing” we shall find eternal life. We must “hear the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.” It is with patience we must “run the race that is set before us.” (Rom. 2:7; Lu. 8:15; Heb. 12:1)

How challenging the words, “IN YOUR PATIENCE POSSESS YE YOUR SOULS.”

MARKS OF MATURITY

FROM PLAIN TRUTH, VOL. 18, NO. 7, SEPTEMBER, 1981
BY DAN SHIPLEY

This is an interesting article, in light of our recent studies. dp

Introduction

1. The process of growth is as essential in the spiritual realm as in the physical.
2. The growth process is EDIFICATION (1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 4:11-14).
3. The growth goal is PERFECTION.
 - a. Gk., *telios*: maturity, completeness, entire, fully developed
4. All Christians are to “press on to perfection” (Heb. 6:1)
 - a. We can measure our growth by marks of maturity found in Scripture

I. THE HEBREW MARKS (Heb. 5:11-6:3)

1. The ability to teach others (“You ought to be teachers” v.12)
 - a. Involves knowledge (all teachers must be learners)
 - b. Involves willingness (see seriousness of, Jas. 3:1)

- i. The ability to receive “meaty” teaching (v. 14)
 - ii. Means leaving (not abandoning) first principles and building thereon.
- c. Failure here is sign of carnality, 1 Cor. 3:1-3
2. The ability to discern between good and evil (“senses exercised to..”)
3. Maturity recognizes difference between what God says and what men say.
 - a. Sees evil in perspective, even tendencies and trends (Phil. 1:9, 10)

II. THE MARK OF HUMILITY

1. Humble enough to receive instruction, Col. 1:28
 - a. To be perfect in Christ, men must receive this teaching.
 - b. Humble enough to be admonished, Col. 1:28.
 - c. To be perfect in Christ, men must also receive admonition.
 - d. All need reproof, correction and instruction from Scriptures, 2 Tim. 3:17
2. Humble enough to recognize one’s own shortcomings.
 - a. Being perfect means recognizing own imperfections.
 - b. Ability to say, “I have sinned” as did David & prodigal son.

III. THE MARK OF TONGUE CONTROL, Jas. 3:2

1. By refraining from speaking against one another, Jas. 4:11; 1 Pet. 3:10
2. By refraining from speaking lies, Eph. 4:25.
3. By refraining from speaking profanity, Jas. 3:10; Matt. 12:36.
4. By refraining from murmuring, Phil. 2:14; 1 Cor. 10:10.

IV. THE MARK OF LOVE

1. The bond of perfection, Col. 4:14.
2. Love for God, brethren, even enemies, 1 Jn. 4:17-21; Jn. 13:35; Matt. 5:43-48.

V. THE MARK OF STEADFASTNESS

1. Steadfast in trials, Jas. 1:2-4.
2. Steadfast in temptations, Jas. 1:12-15.