

Revelation Lesson 25  
Ephesus: The Lagging Church (Commendation) Part 2

Revelation 2:3 “And hast borne, and hast patience,  
and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.”

Tonight we pick up in Revelation 2:3, Jesus is still giving the Church at Ephesus a Compliment. So let's see what else the Body of Christ located there did that was pleasing in the Lord's sight...

**And hast borne** – Here we observe the word “and” again thus showing us that this train of thought is linked to the previous verse. We must again remember that these “ands” here show a list rather than similar items within such a list. The word “hast” means have which means to hold, or possess. Note that this wording is in the PRESENT TENSE. This isn't something they HAD done, it's something THEY WERE DOING. Now the word borne is a Military term. It means: to raise upon a basis, to support. In the NT, generally it means to take up and hold, to bear, to carry on in spite of how one feels, etc. The Greek word BASTAZO (G941) occurs 29 times in 27 verses of our King James New Testament. Think about how one of those occurrences shows the usage of the word in Matthew 20:12 “Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.” Now, in some instances this word carries the symbolic understanding of Discipleship. That word centered upon the word discipline – I think speaks greatly here – these folks had to exercise spiritual discipline (which they had due to being true disciples of the Lord) to have continually borne the Lord's work, Name, Gospel, etc.

**and hast patience** – If you will notice back in verse 2, we see patience and then the word “bear” which is a present tense derivative of borne. Still interesting is that both instances the timing is present tense. Here in verse 3 the order is reversed. We have “borne” and then patience. Is there a reason for this? If so we must be careful not to “read more into the text than is there.” In my understanding these “ands” showing connection in a list form also show that THESE occurrences are connected back to a previous thought. The thought seems to be connected to this “trying” of those which said they were apostles but were not and were found to be liars. Barnes stated such this way: *“This is a repetition of what is said in [verse 2], but in a somewhat different connection. There it rather refers to the trouble which they had experienced on account of the pretensions of false apostles, and the patient, persevering, and enduring spirit which they had shown in that form of trial; here the expression is more general, denoting a patient spirit in regard to all forms of trial.”* Hence to me the thought appears to be as such: “...and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: and hast borne, and hast patience...” This bearing and patience they possessed apparently listed here in this order shows all this was given to them from God while they tried the false apostles.

**and for my name's sake** – Herein is their Cause. As David cried out to the Israelite warriors in 1 Samuel 17:29b *“...Is there not a Cause?”* The NAME OF CHRIST, that Name which is above ALL others (Philippians 2:9) at which EVERY Knee shall bow, and EVERY tongue WILL confess that Jesus Christ IS LORD! - That name was their Cause as it ought to be OUR Cause. But you know, a lot of folks DON'T WANT to be associated with THAT Name, or to HEAR ABOUT THAT NAME. Jesus told us a little bit about what would occur over and concerning HIS NAME:

1. Matthew 10:22a (Mark 13:13 & Luke 21:17) And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake:
2. Matthew 19:29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.
3. Matthew 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.
4. Luke 21:12 But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering

you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

5. John 15:21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.
6. Acts 9:16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

The last verse was what Jesus told Ananias what would happen to Saul of Tarsus once he became Paul the Apostle. Recall what the Jewish council commanded the Apostles in Acts 4:18 “And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.” Why? Because to the Lost and Dying sin-cursed world the NAME OF JESUS is Offensive! This is why there is so much hubbub today over praying in Jesus' Name, Sharing the Name of Jesus – because it is SO POWERFUL. So here we are told by Christ Himself, that part of – or I recon I ought to say much of the sufferings and trials the Ephesians were enduring stemmed from them lifting up the Name of Jesus!

**hast laboured** – Now some Greek eggheads say “this is not in the older manuscripts.” Well, God preserved it in the Textus Receptus which in turn caused Him to preserve this in our WORD OF GOD THE KING JAMES BIBLE. Again we note the Cause for their (note now PAST TENSE) labours. Past Labours. They had laboured why? IN THE NAME OF CHRIST. But please note, even though one may work in the Name of Christ – even that ALONE is NOT ENOUGH FOR SALVATION!! Why? Because the Works will not Save you. Even working under the Power of that NAME will NOT SAVE YOU. There is power in the Name of Christ but without submission to Him you get residue energy. Kind of like when someone gets a fluorescent light bulb underneath High Voltage Power Lines (STUPEFIEDLY DANGEROUS DON'T DO THAT – just watch someone else who did it on Youtube!) the bulb lights up but barely. To get light up you need to be BORN AGAIN! Just associating yourself with the NAME of JESUS does not cause you to get residue “righteousness” to get into Heaven! Notice - Matthew 7:21-23 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied **in thy name**? and **in thy name** have cast out devils? and **in thy name** done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” So what IS the WILL OF HIS FATHER? It is found in 2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” In other words it is HIS WILL THAT ALL SHOULD COME TO REPENTANCE. Sadly ALL WILL NOT because of Free Will. God has not damned X number of people to go to Heaven or X number of people to go to Hell. Such teaching is Calvinism, Reform Theology and Heresy! So in conclusion to this point, remember that the Church at Ephesus was not labouring for themselves, but it was all for the Lord. Remember James M. Black's hymn: “*let us labour for the master from the dawn till setting sun, Let us talk of all His wondrous love and care; Then when all of life is over, and our work on earth is done, and the roll is called up yonder I'll be there!*”

**and hast not fainted** – This indicates they had not fainted due to weariness. Even though they were weary in their labours, they had not fainted. They had not given up. They had as one preacher said “Moxie.” In all these labours they hadn't surrendered. They did not have “small strength” as Proverbs 24:10 states: “If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.” They had the strength of the Lord. They were looking no doubt for what Paul mentioned in Galatians 6:9 “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” But Jesus I think is also alerting them to another “no fainting” verse in Proverbs 3 as mentioned by Paul in Hebrews 12:5 “*And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:*” For now, the One whom they had laboured for and worked for and suffered for was now about to rebuke them. So many saved folks and Christians think that all will be a “bed of roses” once they're saved, but sufferings and trials will come our way and we must remember that we are not the perfect ones and that Christ alone is. So that at times we must be corrected. Next time Christ's Criticism of the Church at Ephesus....