

## INTRODUCTION

Endurance, steadfastness, perseverance---when a Christian, because of his hope in Jesus Christ, exhibits endurance, steadfastness, and perseverance, not with grumbling and complaining, but joy in the Holy Spirit, that is the grace of patience.

The Christian grace of patience is all anchored to Jesus Christ. He is the great example of patience, as He labored and suffered patiently, not turning back, but continuing to do the will of God all the way to the end. It is in companionship with Him that we ourselves labor and suffer in patience. It is in His name that we pray for increase of patience. It is into His kingdom that we hope to enter by way of patience through tribulations.

We grow in patience not primarily during easy times, but through troubled times in this life. It is when we fall into various trials, that the testing of our faith develops patience. As we pray for patience, for ourselves and for each other, the Lord works in us, directing our hearts into the patience of Christ. As we give all diligence to it, we add patience to our own character.

The grace of Christian patience is the ability to suffer and to work, waiting in hope for Jesus Christ.

So we learned together in last week's study. Today we continue to contemplate the grace of patience, by seeing in the scriptures how important it is, what we need it for, to help us in our resolve to flee temptations, and pursue patience.

## TEXT

## BODY

See in the scriptures how important the grace of patience is, the very important things for which we need patience.

- I. We Need Patience Corporately, for the Good of the Congregation
- A. For keeping up the work of the congregation
    1. This word *hupomone*, as the apostle uses it, refers to how a Christian suffers and works, waiting in hope for Jesus Christ
    2. Revelation 2:2-3 "I know your works, your labor, your **patience [G5281 hupomone]**, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have persevered and have **patience [G5281 hupomone]**, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.
    3. Revelation 2:19 "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your **patience [G5281 hupomone]**; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.
  - B. For keeping peace in the congregation
    1. This word *hupomone*, as the apostle uses it, refers to how a Christian suffers and works, waiting in hope for Jesus Christ
    2. Romans 15:1-7 We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME." 4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the **patience [G5281 hupomone]** and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 Now may the God of **patience [G5281 hupomone]** and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.
  - C. I know that you love this congregation, as I do. To keep up the work of the Lord in it, and to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace in it, we have to have the grace of patience.
  - D. So, let us flee from all the temptations that would hinder the work and destroy the peace of the congregation
    1. 1 Timothy 6:4-5 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, 5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.
    2. 1 Timothy 6:9-10 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
  - E. And let us pursue that grace by which we can do the work and keep the peace in the congregation---the grace of patience.

We need patience corporately, for the good of the congregation

## II. We Need Patience Individually, for the Salvation of the Soul

Hebrews 10:32-39 But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: 33 partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; 34 for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. 35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of ~~endurance~~ **[patience G5281 *hupomone*]**, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 "FOR YET A LITTLE WHILE, AND HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME AND WILL NOT TARRY. 38 NOW THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; BUT IF ANYONE DRAWS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM." 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

- A. We are justified in God's sight not by our works, or any virtue in ourselves, but through faith in Jesus Christ; yet not all who say they believe in Jesus Christ have true saving faith in Him
- B. Phony, fake faith, has no true hope in Jesus Christ; having no living hope in Christ, it can have no grace of patience; so, when tested by sufferings and tribulations, phony, fake faith shows its falseness by forsaking Christ and falling away; so, a person who says he believes in Jesus Christ, but then, when tested by tribulation, casts away his confidence in Christ, and draws back, should expect not salvation, but perdition
- C. True saving faith has true hope in Jesus Christ; when tested by sufferings and tribulations, it shows forth in the grace of patience; so, a person who believes in Jesus Christ, and, when tested by tribulation, has the patience of hope in Christ, can expect his soul to go to heaven when he dies, and to be saved from God's wrath in the day of judgment

We need patience corporately, for the good of the congregation

We need patience individually, for the salvation of the soul

**[If time is up, proceed to conclusion here.]**

### III. We Need Patience For Times of Severe Tribulation

Revelation 13:5-10 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. (6) Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. (7) It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. (8) All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (9) If anyone has an ear, let him hear. (10) He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the **patience** and the faith of the saints.

- A. As to interpretation of this vision:
  - 1. allowing that there may have been a fulfillment of this already in history
  - 2. allowing that there may be a fulfillment of this far in the future, which we here today may not be a part of
  - 3. acknowledging that this kind of thing is characteristic of the world until Jesus Christ comes back, so this vision can serve as an encouragement to all Christians who face severe tribulation
- B. When the powers that be in this world are so corrupt that they make war with the saints and overcome them
- C. When all who are not the disciples of Jesus Christ, are going along with it
- D. When Christians are being put in prison and even being killed
- E. Then we, the saints of Jesus Christ, have great need for much patience
- F. Jesus Christ has promised that, by His sovereign power,
  - 1. those wicked men who lead the innocent into captivity, shall themselves go into captivity
  - 2. those wicked men who wrongly kill with the sword, must themselves be killed with the sword
- G. Those whose hope is in Jesus Christ can endure captivity and even violent death patiently, keeping faith in Christ even unto death

### CONCLUSION

We need patience corporately, for the good of the congregation

We need patience individually, for the salvation of the soul

We need patience for times of severe tribulation

Therefore, let us flee from all temptations, and follow after all the graces that are in Jesus Christ, including the grace of patience.

Allison - Prelude

Allison - Trinity 700 "Trust and Obey"

Haven - Trinity 579 "Be Still, My Soul" - Andrew lead

Rita - Trinity 596 "Jesus Lives, and So Shall I"

Jeremiah - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Habakkuk 3:17-18

Stephen - Scripture Reading - Habakkuk 1:1-2:4

Roel - Congregational Prayer

Benediction: Habakkuk 3:19a