

ENDURANCE

James 1:12; 5:11; Matt. 10:22; II Tim. 2:10

INTRODUCTION:

1. ENDURE -- Bear (trials); have fortitude, perseverance, abide.
2. ENDURANCE is a must if we are to reach heaven.
3. Too many people who obey the gospel are not able to endure -- Matt. 13: 20 - 21

I. WE MUST ENDURE IN OUR WORK AND TOIL

1. We are to labor in the vineyard of the Lord -- Matt. 20: 2
 - (1) We are to bear the burdens "*in the heat of the day*" -- Matt. 20:12
 - (2) On a hot summer day the burden and heat get hard to bear sometimes.
 - (3) Paul said, "*And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not*" --Gal. 6:9
2. Paul said we are to "*Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord*" --I Cor. 15:58
3. The Lord has sent laborers into His harvest -- Matt. 9: 37 - 38
4. Paul was a hard worker -- II Cor. 11:23; I Cor. 15:10
5. There is much work to be done today and we must ENDURE.
 - (1) There are many souls to be saved -- Matt. 9: 37 - 38
 - (2) There are many souls that need to be restored -- Gal. 6:1; James 5:19 - 20
 - (3) There are many young Christians that need encouragement -- I Thess. 5:14
6. Have you been able to endure the work?
 - (1) Do you ever get discouraged and feel like quitting?
 - (2) Do you get discouraged when others won't work?
 - (3) Do you feel like sometimes nobody cares about you and the work you do? -- Heb. 6:10; I Cor. 15:58

II. WE MUST ENDURE THE TRIALS AND SUFFERINGS OF LIFE

1. Trials are going to come our way.
2. They are going to come in the form of:
 - (1) Sickness
 - (2) Death
 - (3) Financial failures
 - (4) Friends forsaking us
 - (5) Family turning on us.
3. James said we are to count it all joy when we fall into different trials -- James 1:2
4. These trials test our faith and work patience in our lives -- James 1: 3- 4

5. Paul said, "*We glory in tribulations*" -- Rom. 5: 3 - 4

(1) Tribulation works patience

6. Heb. 12: 6 - 11

III. WE MUST ENDURE TEMPTATIONS

1. We are going to be tempted of the Devil -- I Pet. 5:8; I Cor. 7:5; Matt. 4: 1 - 10

2. Temptation is the inducement to yield to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life -- I John 2: 15 - 17

3. James explains temptation -- James 1: 13 - 15

4. Satan hunts our weakness of the flesh -- Matt. 26:41

(1) Jesus -- Matt. 4: 1 - 4

(2) I Cor. 7:5 (Married people)

5. No temptation is insurmountable.

(1) Only such as is "*common to man*"-- I Cor. 10:13

(2) God will not suffer us to be tempted above that we are able to endure.

(3) God will make a way to escape -- II Pet. 2: 9

6. HOW to endure temptation:

(1) "*Watch and pray*"-- Matt. 26:41

(2) Have strong purpose not to sin -- Dan. 1:8

(3) Flee from all sin -- II Tim. 2:22; I Cor. 6:18; I Cor. 10:14

(4) Resist the Devil -- James 4:7

(5) Give no place to the Devil -- Eph. 4:27

(6) Put on the whole armor of God -- Eph. 6:11

(7) Use the weapon "*It is written*" -- Matt. 4: 4, 7, 10

IV. WE MUST ENDURE WARFARE OF FAITH

1. We are to war a good warfare -- I Tim. 1: 18

2. We are to fight a good fight -- II Tim. 4:7

3. We are to earnestly contend for the faith -- Jude 3

4. We must put on the whole armor of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil -- Eph. 6: 11 - 17

5. We wrestle--against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places -- Eph. 6:12

V. ENDURE IN PERSECUTIONS FOR CHRIST

1. We will be persecuted for righteousness sake -- Matt. 5: 10 - 12

2. We will suffer as Christians -- I Pet. 4:16

3. Some will not endure the persecutions -- Matt. 13: 20 -21

VI. CHRISTIANS WHO DO ENDURE ARE HAPPY -- James 5:11

1. They are happy within themselves; they have peace and a good conscience
2. They are happy in their influence on others
3. They are happy in their HOPE -- Rom. 5:4; Heb. 6:19

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