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
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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