

**I. Exposition of the Text****A.** The context**B.** The parts —

- 1) *Surely oppression destroys a wise man's reason, and a bribe debases the heart* (v 7)
- 2) *The end of a thing is better than its beginning* (v 8a)
- 3) *The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit* (v 8b)
- 4) *Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools* (v 9)
- 5) *Do not say, "Why were the former days better than these?" For you do not inquire wisely concerning this* (v 10) —

**C.** The point — When it comes to the benefit of learning the fear of the Lord and help to do His commandments, patience is better than pride and passion.

**II. Doctrines from the Text****A.** Patience and the Christian work ethic (v 7)

- 1) We are to work for our money
- 2) We are to trust the Lord for our provision (Acts 9:18-24; *Heidelberg Catechism 125*)

**B.** Patience as the fruit of faith (v 8)

- 1) We do not know the details of the end, yet we have by faith the general description
  - a) The nature of sanctification (Isa 28:16)
  - b) The hope of glorification (Heb 10:32-36)
- 2) How does patience relate to pride?
  - a) Pride thinks the beginning is best, whereas patience looks to the future.
  - b) Pride thinks that we are the glory, whereas patience looks to us being but foundational (1 Cor 3:9-15)

**C.** Patience is the antidote to anger (v 9)

- 1) Why anger is most often hasty and foolish —
  - a) Such anger has no sense of proportion.

**b)** Such anger has no sense of who is the most offended  
(1 Sam 8:7)

**c)** Such anger has no sense of justice.

**2)** Patience tempers our anger (Psa 4:4)

**D.** Why should we not say the former days were better (v 10)?

**a)** Such reveals the sin of laziness and entitlement

**b)** Such engages others in the sin of discontentment

**c)** Such is a misunderstanding of former days

**d)** Such is an overlooking the value of current days

**e)** Such neglects the value of suffering

**f)** Such neglects the benefit of difficulty (Acts 13:13, 15:36-39).

**g)** Such is based on sight and not faith

**III. Answering Objections to the Text**

**A.** *Objection 1:* But I cannot help but to be angry!

**B.** *Objection 2:* But what if the former days were better than these?

**1)** Respond with self-examination:

**2)** Put off this discontentment with the reminder of:

**a)** The Nature of God

**b)** The Nature of Providence (Psa 126:5)

**c)** The Nature of Obedience (Lam 3:27).

**d)** The Nature of Hope (Phil 3:13b-14).

**3)** Put off this discontentment with doing actual good works

**IV. Uses from the Text**

**A.** Is your life marked by patience? (1 Cor 13:4)

**B.** Respond to temptation with the resolution of patience

**C.** Particular areas of patience that are needed: (1) Suffering; (2) Uncertainty; (3) Discontentment; (4) Relationships; (5) Sanctification; (6) Generational patience for Reformation in the Church; (7) Praying with longevity

**D.** The patience of God

**1)** In sending His Son (Gal 4:4-5)

**2)** In working out His will of election (2 Pt 3:9-10; Rom 2:4)

**E.** The conclusion of our patience