

INTRODUCTION

We have been considering Christian virtues, or, more accurately, Christian graces, commended to us by our Lord Jesus through His apostle Paul, as those things which we must pursue or chase or follow after.

Recently, I have been learning and teaching about the grace of patience. The Christian grace of patience is the ability to suffer and to work, waiting in hope for Jesus Christ.

We have learned together that patience is developed more during hard times than during easy times. And we learned that patience is to be prayed for, being the work of the Lord in us; but also is to be worked for, being a duty of ours to add it to our character.

Last time, we read in the scripture about the importance of patience for the good of the congregation, keeping up both its work and its peaceful unity. We read also about the importance of patience for the individual, for the salvation of the soul, for staying in the faith rather than drawing back.

Let me show you in the scriptures two things with which we can conclude this study:

1. the great need we have of patience and the other graces for facing severe tribulation
2. the ways we may flee temptation and pursue these graces

TEXT

1 Timothy 6:6-11 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 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. 11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

BODY

- I. We Need Patience and the Other Graces of Christ For Times of Severe Tribulation
- A. Revelation 13:7-10 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.
 - B. In Revelation 13, we read of two beasts that would rise out of the wreck of the Roman Empire---one a corrupt civil authority and one a corrupt religious authority, each propping up the other, and both given power by the devil
 - 1. all those who were not truly of Jesus Christ would go along with the corrupt religion, so as not to be in trouble with the corrupt government, and to enjoy its power
 - 2. this unholy alliance between corrupt government and corrupt religion would be allowed to make war against the saints and overcome them; meaning that it would take them into captivity and even kill them
 - C. This was life for countless Christians during the dark ages
 - D. This same thing plays out in various places at various times all over the world, when corrupt government and corrupt religion ally themselves with each other and persecute the saints
 - 1. pure religion does not want to wield the power of the sword for religious power; we do not want any laws
 - a) establishing religion, or
 - b) prohibiting the free exercise of religion
 - 2. sound government does not want to interfere in people's religion, but wants to secure the people's right not to be persecuted over their religion
 - E. When we face such times, when tribulation is severe, when people are being put in prison and being killed for being Christians, we will have great need for the graces of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. patience and faith are mentioned here in Revelation 13
 - 2. but also such things as righteousness, godliness, love, and meekness are needed for facing such times
 - F. When such severe tribulation comes, we do not want to be weaklings, ready to buckle and give in; instead we want to be strong in the Lord, and in His mighty power, ready to endure patiently whatever the wicked do to us, even if they put us in prison or kill us

II. How We Flee These Temptations

- A. Think of these things in the terms the Bible gives us
 - 1. the desire to be rich is a snare or trap
 - 2. the love of money is a root from which grows all evil, or all kinds of evil
- B. Think of their danger rather than their allure
 - 1. they cause us to drown
 - 2. they produce all kinds of evil
 - 3. they cause us to be run through

III. How We Pursue These Virtues or Graces

- A. Understand they are things the believer has, but needs more of
- B. Understand they are the things the unbeliever has none of that is acceptable to God
- C. They are in more mature believers, so we look to them as examples
- D. They are all in Christ, so we go to Him for them!
 - 1. we go to Him in learning of Him in the scriptures
 - a) we go to Him in following His example
 - b) we go to Him in believing His promises
 - 2. we go to Him in prayer

CONCLUSION

Dillon - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Hebrews 12:22-29

Willie - Scripture Reading - Matthew 5:10-12

Thad - Congregational Prayer

Benediction - 2 Thessalonians 3:5

Rita - Prelude

Rita - Trinity 712 "I Know Whom I Have Believed"

Allison - Trinity 145 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Audrey - Trinity 178 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" - Andrew lead

Lamentations 3:19-26

- IV. Revelation 14:12 Here is the [**patience G5281 hupomone**]of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.
- A. Gill: That which has required their patience, and about which it has been exercised, what they have been patiently waiting for, namely, the destruction of antichrist; and now it will be come, and patience will have its perfect work
 - B. Carroll: Rev_13:10, last clause: "Here is the patience and faith of the saints." In Rev_14:12, we have this language repeated in another sense: "Here is the patience of the saints," Here it means the patience of the saints in enduring the trials by faith. The next time it means the fruition of patience: I will call your attention to it again in a subsequent chapter.
 - C. In the time of the apostle John, our Lord Jesus Christ revealed to His people what the great political and religious upheaval would be in the centuries ahead
 - 1. the power of the Roman Empire would be broken; Rome would be so damaged that it would as if it had received a fatal wound
 - 2. but Rome would rise again in power---a Roman Empire in a new form
 - 3. the power of that empire would come from a deceitful false religious leadership that would convince people to acknowledge the new civil leadership
 - D. We know this in our European history as the system by which the pope in Rome dominated much of the world for centuries, with the Holy Roman Empire and other countries being subordinated to the pope, and dependent on him for their power.