

he can gather the ripened harvest. As in Matt. 21:33 a certain man planted a vineyard and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it and built a tower and waited for the harvest.

As Eccles. 11:46 says the farmer works to prepare his soil. Then he sows and does not know whether it will be good or not. Some time must elapse before the harvest appears to reward his toil.

The waiting period for the farmer is never without its trials and testing. The weather may be too hot, for cold, too dry, or too wet. Then, too, there are the insects and pests to contend with.

So the farmer during his busy season works 12 to 14 hours a day and must have patience to wait for the fruits of his crop. He must depend on the early rain in Oct. or Nov. to germinate the grain and the later rain in April or May for maturing the grain.

We who are Christ's have many things to try our patience but we must endure with longsuffering. As we engage in holy service and live holy lives, we may be certain that "in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Gal. 6:9. Rom. 5:3. We must add to our faith,

Introduction: This life is marked by pressure. There is a conflict between capital and labor, employer and employee. Satellite, Sputnik, Guided Missiles, Rockets are part of our conservation today. There is another word that I would like to project into our conservation and lives--PATIENCE. There seems to be so little of it today--see the lack of it among friends, Christian people, in the business world. No one shows favour to any one.

I. Patience Commanded. v. 7

1. Patience exhorted.

Charged up the believers by encouraging patient endurance.

Few things, if any, in the life of a believer, are more difficult to practice than patience in the midst of trial or persecution.

Be of a long Spirit--not losing heart--catch your wind for a long race. Long tempered as opposed to short tempered.

You will need submission as in (11) "Knowing that the trying of you faith workth patience."

II.2 A good reason for this command.

II

"The coming of our Lord." It is true that the believers in the early church looked forward to Christ's return at which time He will set things right. The apostles had not bright cloud on the horizon, but always "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Titus 2:13.

They were looking for his coming Phil. 3:20, likewise were the saints at Colossi (Gal. 3:1 and Thess. 1:9)

It was a (comforting hope) Thess. 1:18 and a (purifying) hope, I John 3:2-3.

They knew that He must come to take over the reins of government and put right every wrong in this sin scarred world. James exhorts us to patience. He assured them that the Lord will come again.

In view of his return we can (afford to be patient.) We need only to practice patience. "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." (Phil. 4:5).

His appearing will put down the cruel oppressors of his church and the persecutors of his followers. If we are called to suffering and reproach, let us bear it with patience.

III

This is one thing we stand in need of--the scripture reminds us, "To have need of patience." Heb. 10:36. According to our scheme of reckoning, God seems to move slowly. No sooner had our (first parents sinned when God gave the promise of the Redeemer) but the world waited approximately forty centuries for His first coming. "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his son, born of a woman, made under the law." Gal. 4:4. We wait for the fulfillment of the promise of His second coming, and we need patience as we wait, for "be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day." II Peter 3:8. The day of the Lord will come, when he was here upon this earth he promised He would return. John 14:3.

The Just message He sent back to earth after he ascended was the fact of his coming again. Acts. 1:11. His final word to the sons of man is: "Surely I will come quickly." Rev. 22:20.

3. The Command Illustrated

The patient (farmer) is used--the worker of the ground. The farmer plants his grain and then waits for the early rain/the fall and the latter rain in the spring, before

Yet they were persecuted and mistreated. You would feel that the son of God should be the last of be persecuted but usually he is the first.

Daniel was dealt with in a most unChristian way.

Jeremiah was severely treated in an unchristian manner. Jer. 18:18. Also note Jer. 20:19. The first verse says they said untruthful things about him and the second he said nothing in retaliation.

Jesus said Matt. 23:37-"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets and stonest them which are sent unto thee..."

Suffering was a characteristic of worthy men among the prophets. "Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds, but the word of God is not bound." II Tim. 2:9.

Why should we not be patient as the prophets who suffered faithfully until the end. They are an example of affliction.

The favor they had with God, and the dignity of the office they bore, did not exempt them from suffering. The prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord, who uttered their warnings, promises, and appeals by divine authority. They protested against the worship of idols,

patience. II Peter 1:5 (We must run with patience the race that is set before us.) Looking unto Jesus. Heb. 12:2.

The return of Christ is a challenge to purity and humble service in spite of the trials. "No farmer would want the sun to shine all of the time. If he did not have the clouds that bring the rain, his fields would turn into deserts.

Our trials are real but "weeping may endure for a night -- joy cometh in the morning." Pro. 30:5.

We must wait quietly for the harvest. It is childish to sow seed in our little flower beds and then to dig them up impatiently the day following because they did not yield the flower.

II. How to Attain Patience. V. 6

"Stablish" you hearts. to support, to make stable might better be rendered "strengthen". The hope of our Lord's coming should strengthen our hearts. This is a great secret of Christian strength.

First, yield your heart to Christ as saviour. There can be no achievement of the patience spoken of here unless this is done first.

Second, as a saved soul you can "stablish" strengthen

your soul in Patience. The Christian is never to give up. Abraham did not live to see the promised Seed of the woman, still "he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God." Rom. 4:20

Third, look for his coming--this will help attain Patience. Let the very thought of it establish, steady, strengthen you to meet, in patience, the hardest trials of your life. "The Lord draweth nigh" the time is drawing nearer.

III. In-patience Condemned V. 9

Lack of patience, or restlessness is wrong.

First stop complaining one against another. "Grudge" not--grudging means grumbling and judging. When trials come to us we find it easy to murmur and complain, sighing one against another.

When trials come to us we find it easy to judge and seek vengeance. Thus, you wind up quarrelling with your brother in Christ. Most likely those you complain about are not responsible for your troubles.

Second this in-patience will be judged.

We must leave all judgment until the judge comes. The judge is standing right outside the door now. There

are some impatient folk who desire to get revenge for all wrong immediately.

Allow patience to operate, the judge is just outside the door and these things will soon be swept away. Man can never right all the wrongs, he will fail everytime, there is one man, Christ Jesus, who will not fail. Turn your groning into glorying the Lord.

The nearness of the judge, who might present himself at any moment. As Jesus said in Matt. 24:23--The fig tree has tender branches, then leaves are put forth, you know summer is nigh--so like wise when you see certain signs, know that the end is near, even at the doors.

Third, how long must we be patient? (V. 10)

Until the very end. Abraham, a great example for us, "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between thee and me... for we be brethren." Gen. 13:8. Patience should be enduring among Christians.

James used the Prophets as an Example. He spoke in the name of the Lord.

Why should he choose the prophets to illustrate patience in suffering? (Dr. Lyman Beecher) - should you be patient under abuse - take deep to him - not a man they were God's fearless spokesmen who condemned some anonymous letter writer who attacked him - said when the sin of the people. I was a boy, I was owning a field with a dam full of brook & suddenly with a small crowd of timber, several volumes, resulting in a bad smell & decided soon after during his life to let such examples alone.

and against the prevalent vices of their people, as transgressors of the law of God, and on this account, they were all of them persecuted, and some of them killed.

IV. The Fruits of Patience. V. 11

Happy God will not have Christians suffer without reward. Therefore, we should not shrink from hard experiences. Happiness is worth all our efforts in patience.

Jesus talked about this in Matt. 18:23—a king called in one of his servants. This man owed 10,000 talents. The king ordered him and his family sold. The servant then fell down crying, "Lord have patience with me, I will pay thee all." The king was moved with compassion and released him. The same servant went out and found a fellow servant that owed him 100 pence. He took him by the throat and said pay me. The fellowservant said "Have patience with me and I will pay thee all." The servant would not and cast him into prison, till the debt be payed.

Some of the other servants saw what was done and told the king, who in turn had the wicked servant punished.

Much unhappiness is caused by lack of patience. We desire people to have patience with us, but we have no

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patience with others.

2. Many other fruits - (Illustrated in Job's life.)

Few men have suffered as Job. He lost his servants, his livestock, property, children and he himself was smitten with sore boils. Job 1:21, 2:10, 19:25.

His patience was fruitful- he received

A. (Kindness- pity)

Very kind, this proved that God had a purpose in it for his children. God showed great kindness to Job as a reward for his patience.

Joseph, too, suffered at the hands of his brethren, but at in the end he could say, "But as for you, ye thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good--"

Gen. 50:20

Dr. Hays - He being in Rome, had a pleurisy, & was crippled, & lying near death.

Job 42:12- "So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning."

Dr. Dr. Truitt - shortly before he died on July 8, 1944 a friend visited. Reason of Dr. Truitt's inability to sleep because of his internal suffering - The friend asked if the nights did not seem long - "No." Dr. Truitt replied firmly, "I start counting. The good things God has

done for me & the kindness of my friends. & the nights are not long enough!"
Great patience -

Dr. Truitt - 1944 - 1945