



PURSUIT 24

In Pursuit of Endurance

Php 3:12-14 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. (13) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, (14) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

In Review

- What does sit mean to Pursue?
- God's Pursuit of Man.
- Man's Pursuit of Sin.
- In Pursuit of Christ as a Person and an Ideal.

Today





In Pursuit of Endurance

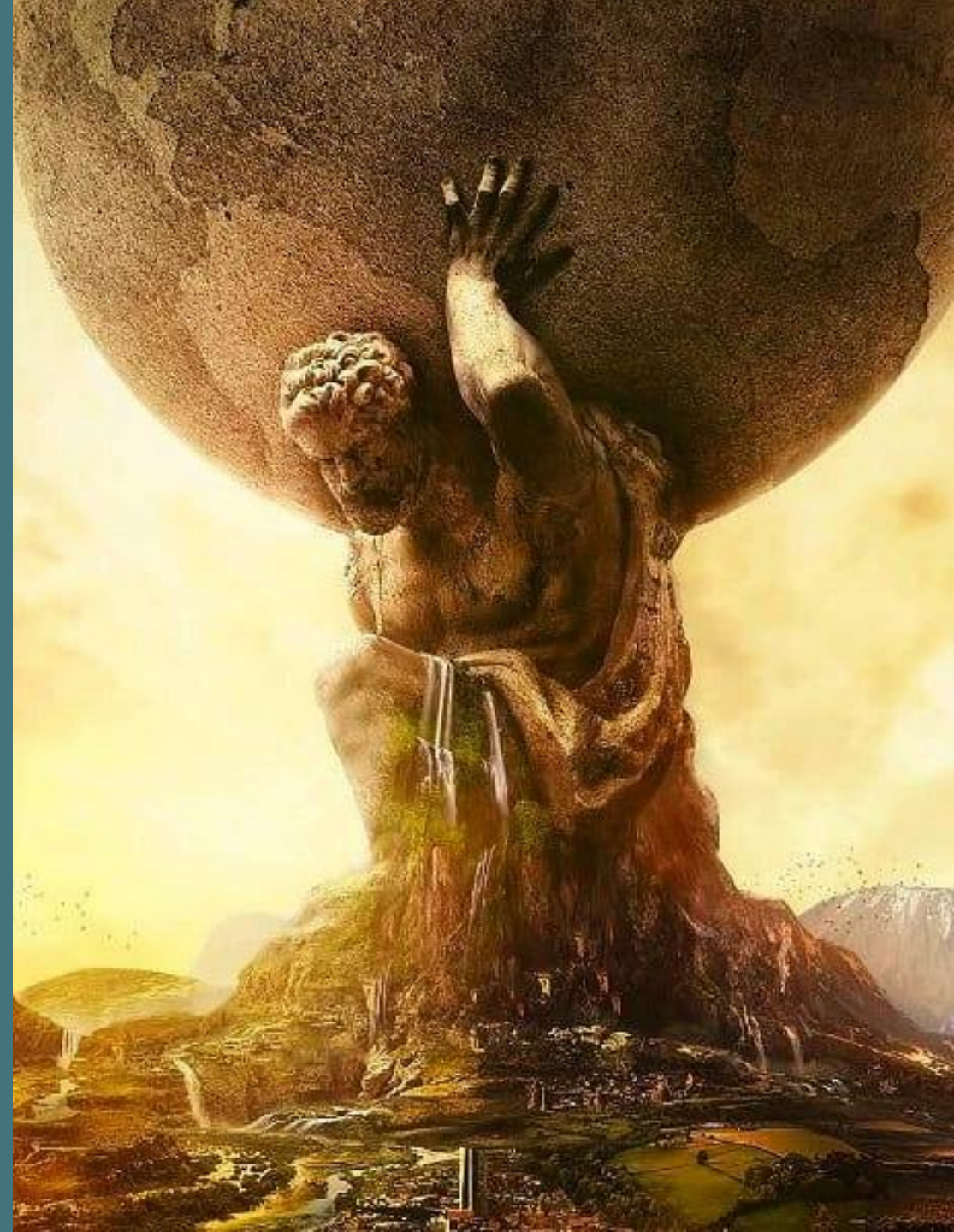
Rom 5:1-5 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (2) By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (3) And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; (4) And patience, experience; and experience, hope: (5) And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Glory in tribulation

...rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also:

Tribulation **θλίψις (thlipsis)** *thlip'-sis* - pressure (literally or figuratively): - afflicted, (-tion), anguish, burdened, persecution.

- Rejoice in hope, yes, its great to have hope. But only rejoicing in the pressure will get you through the, let's say, EVENT.
 - The event might be a race or a competition, something that will take great effort to achieve.
 - In our context we are more likely talking more like what the Greek defines.
 - Could be external like the aspects of the race itself (inclines, obstacles) or internal (will, desire).



The Necessity of Tribulation

We Glory in it, tells us that it is present, and it is to be desired.

- What happens when there is no pressure, no resistance?
 - One grows accustomed to ease and leisure.
 - Muscles atrophy with time.
 - Without affliction there is no immunity or strengthening against it.
 - There is nothing to overcome.
- In the absence of resistance Softness abounds, which is the opposite of strength and without strength it is impossible to endure.

Glory καυχάομαι (kauchaomai) kow-khah'-om-ah-ee- to *boast*; to *vaunt* (in a good or a bad sense).

- What a strange thought.
- It is because we know that the thing is bigger than ourselves.





Tribulation Builds Endurance

...And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience...

Patience ὑπομονή (*hupomonē*) *hoop-om-on-ay'* cheerful (or hopeful) *endurance, constancy*: - enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting).

Endurance- The fact or power to do keep doing something difficult, unpleasant, or painful for a long time.

How do we endure?

1. Mental Fortitude, Will Power
2. Hope or a Future Finish Line
3. Knowledge of the why, the purpose of the goal.
4. Physical ability.
5. Belief, in self or higher power.

But each of these requiring strengthening themselves.

So how do we prepare to joyfully endure?

Every trial, every difficulty, every pressure is an opportunity to train some aspect of your life.

In an ideal world these would be scheduled like a season of events, but we are guaranteed this.

1Pe 4:12-13 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. (13) But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

1. Change your perspective on things that are difficult or hard. (James 1:2-4)
2. Immerse yourself in God's Word, it has been preserved for your instruction and edification. (II Timothy 3:16-17)
3. Be in constant communication with God through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)
4. Surround yourself with likeminded people. (Galatians 6:2)

So the story of Pursuit is...

From
Creation



Man has
Pursued
Death



But God
sought to
Redeem



So that man
might choose
Life.



Repent and Believe



King and the
Kingdom



Pursue Him, as an
Ideal



Pursue Him, as a
Person





Learn
To
Endure





PURSUIT 24

God's Pursuit of Man