

The Reward of Persistence

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Philadelphia Church

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But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ⁶ For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. ⁶ For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, ⁷ always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

In the Last Days, people will be: (2 Timothy 3:1-7)

1. Lovers of their own selves (Conceited)
2. Covetous (Scammers)
3. Boasters
4. Proud
5. Blasphemers
6. Unthankful
7. Unholy
8. Without Natural Affection
(Uncompassionate)
9. Trucebreakers
10. False Accusers (Liars)
11. Incontinent (lacking self-control)
12. Fierce
13. Despisers of those that are good
14. Traitors (Fake)
15. Heady (Reckless)
16. High-minded
17. Lovers of pleasures more than lovers
of the Most High
18. Having a form of godliness, but
denying the power thereof
19. Led away with diverse lusts
20. Ever learning & never able to come to
the knowledge of the truth

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Don't become weary in prayer!

Closer to the Cross

5,000 fed

500 followed

12 disciples

3 went deeper into the garden

1 stood by Him at the cross

The closer you get to the cross,
the smaller the crowd becomes.

- unk

Truth

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, ² saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. ³ Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ ⁴ And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, ⁵ yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’ ”

⁶ Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said. ⁷ And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? ⁸ I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”

⁹ Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

Will God find faith on the earth?

Won't God grant His people Justice
when they cry out to Him day and night?

Weariness is contagious
(but so is perseverance)

And let our *people* also learn to maintain good works, to *meet* urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

Complaining instead of trusting
impairs our faith.

Now *when* the people complained, it displeased the LORD; for the LORD heard *it*, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the LORD burned among them, and consumed *some* in the outskirts of the camp.

Making excuses rather than obeying
causes us to miss His blessing.

So Samuel said:

“Has the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings
and sacrifices,
As in obeying the voice of the LORD?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
And to heed than the fat of rams.

Hard soil - Hear the message but don't understand and evil takes the message away.

Thorny soil - Hear the message but the cares of this life and pleasures take the message away.

Rocky soil - Hear the message but fall away from its teaching when trouble and persecution arise.

Good soil - Produces 30-, 60- or 100-fold. Hear the message persevere and obey producing much fruit.

NKJV

Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

NASB

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though *something* strange were happening to you; ¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that at the revelation of His glory you may also rejoice and be overjoyed.

Sin killed Jesus
Lust kills Love
Fear kills Faith
Anger kills Gratitude
Laziness kills Purpose
Distraction kills Focus

Therefore, my beloved brothers *and sisters*, be firm, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not *in vain* in the Lord.

Hebrews 10:23 NKJV

Let's hold firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;