

A call to endure – Pt 1 endure hardness as a good soldier

This is a new study on a call to the brethren to endure. In this, our first study, we first establish the meaning of the word “endure” and then outline three points from the scriptures – (1) endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, (2) blessed is the man that endures temptation, and (3) it is thankworthy if a man for conscience toward God endure grief.

Meaning of “endure”–

a) From the Greeks words that are translated “endure” –

* they are also translated – abide, bear with, be present, continue, dwell, forbear, remain stand, suffer, tarry, patient, take patiently, thine own and tarry behind.

b) From the scriptures –

“endure” means to suffer – (1 Pet.2: 19).

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Tim.2: 3).

2. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” (Jam.1: 12).

3. It is thankworthy if a man for conscience toward God endure grief.

“For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.” (1 Pet.2: 19).

Illustration to help apply the teaching to our life.

Two of the brethren on the street who participate in the preaching of the gospel have recently suffered, and endured grief wrongfully. One chose to leave his job because his employer put up signs saying the employer tolerates and accepts sodomites in the work-place. He complained but they refused to tolerate truth.

The other brother was preaching Christ-crucified to his colleagues at work and was threatened with termination. Both are an example to the body of men who are prepared to endure hardness as a soldier.

Question to think about.

What is the consequence of actions where by we endure grief wrongfully, endure hardness as a soldier, and suffer as a Christian?

Our answer from the scriptures.

Using our examples of Job, David and the Lord Jesus we answer our question –

* Job 42:12 “So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning”.

* David was blessed for not taking vengeance on his enemies but left them to God.

* God exalted His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ at His right hand – “Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever” (Heb.1: 8)!

Today, God is thankworthy to those who endure hardness as a good soldier.

“If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified” (1 Pet.4: 14). Let us be encouraged to endure hardness as a good soldier, by enduring temptation, and with a good conscience toward God endure grief. And our God will be thankworthy! Praise the Lord for all who endure as a good soldier!