

Longsuffering –Pt 2 The Lord’s children are longsuffering

This is our second and final study of the word “longsuffering” in the scriptures. In our previous teaching we established four points– (i) The Lord suffers long with man’s sin, even though He hates iniquity, (ii) The Lord was longsuffering prior to Israel when He waited (patiently) in the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared, (iii) The Lord was longsuffering to Israel, and (iv) God is longsuffering toward the heathen. In this study we establish four points– (i) The Lord Jesus showed all longsuffering first to Paul for a pattern to us which thereafter believe, (ii) Paul exhibited in his doctrine, manner of life– longsuffering, (iii) ministers of God approve themselves by longsuffering, and (iv) each one of us is to put on longsuffering.

It is from our search of the scriptures that we establish our four points–

1. The Lord Jesus showed all longsuffering first to Paul for a pattern to us which thereafter believe

“Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting” (1Tim 1:16).

2. Paul exhibited in his doctrine, manner of life– longsuffering,

“But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience” (2Tim 3:10).

3. Ministers of God approve themselves by longsuffering

“Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: [4] But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, [6] By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned” (2 Cor.6: 3, 4, 6).

4. Each one of us are to “Put on” – longsuffering

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering” (Col.3: 12).

Illustration

Examples of those in the family who forbear, and in Israel who suffered long. We honour the women folk who nurture the young children from the moment they are born until they leave home. They suffer long with the young, bearing their burdens as they fall over, get up again, learn and grow.

Question of the scripture

How do we bear longsuffering if it is a trait of God?

Answers from the scriptures

Given that those in Christ have the Holy Spirit dwelling in them (Rom.8: 11), and He bears fruit which includes longsuffering– then it is not us, but God that bears the fruit– Gal.5: 22– “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering...”
If you want to suffer long, forbear your brethren then seek the Lord to live in purity, putting off the old man and putting on the new. As you purge yourself of those things which are not of God – you will be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, “meet for the master’s use” (2 Tim.2: 21), and the Spirit of God in you will bear more fruit, and you will find yourself suffering longer with the weak. To God be the glory!