

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Eddy Dickinson

Opening Prayer: Al Corkren

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery
Servers - Gary Addison
Lannie Key
Ralph Burleson

Closing Prayer: Billy Box

Preparing the Lord's Supper Amelia Key

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Deacon: Al Corkren
Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson Minister: Greg Lowery

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Possessing The Patience of Christ



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



He Endured

By Winfred Clark

If you will look for this phrase in your Bible, you will find it in Hebrews 11:27. It is spoken of Moses after a long and eventful life that was lived in service to God.

When you think of one enduring, you think of one facing opposition or some kind of difficulties. This was the case with this good man. It was not easy for him nor is it for any man who seeks to do the will of the Lord. Yet, it is said of him, “he endured”. That just means, “he kept on keeping on”.

Can we find some of the things he endured? Can we measure the man by what he faced? Can we see what it cost him to be faithful? I believe we can.

He Faced The Contempt Of A Ruler

When Moses went to Egypt, he was to tell Pharaoh to let God’s people go. His answer was, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go” (Exod. 5:2)? The man who sat on the throne of Egypt had no regard for the God that Moses served. He showed nothing but contempt for the commands of God. He was not a believer nor could he see why others would believe.

This can have its effect in the hearts and minds of people. For example, a young man or woman might find themselves in a classroom surrounded with atheistic thinking. They will find such folks do not believe there is a God. They will deny the very existence of God. In fact, they will challenge the Bible itself. What then is that young person to do? When he hears the Bible challenged or God mocked, what is his reaction to be? The same attitude is to be present as was in the case of Moses. There was no surrender of his faith just because a man like Pharaoh did not believe what he had to say. He knew what God had said, and that was enough for him. He knew there was a God that was superior to all the gods of Egypt. He knew God had sent him on the mission, along with Aaron. Knowing all of this would help him to endure.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Billy Box: undergoing therapy for recent hip replacement surgery, please be praying that he can have a quick and full recovery

Faye Cotton: has stopped taking treatments for now; please be praying that she will regain her strength and defeat this cancer

Denise Kimbrell: receiving chemo treatments; please be praying that with these treatments this cancer will not return

Mary Eddy: she is recovering from knee surgery, please be praying that the she makes a full and quick recovery

Lellie Dickinson: is recovering from knee surgery and torn ligaments in her knee, please be praying for a full and quick recovery

Barbara Wilkinson: still having problem with infection on her feet, please pray that the medicine she is taking will cure this infection

Bill Foster: is at home under hospice care, please be praying for him and his family

Danielle Taylor: recovering from recent spinal surgery, please pray that she makes a full recovery

Danny Harbin: recently diagnosed with prostate cancer, please keep him in your prayers

Mable Weeks: is at home, please pray that she can regain her strength, and continue her fight against cancer

Barb Lemay: friend of Christie & Aaron, from the Midway congregation – she has advanced colon cancer; please be praying that treatments will help

Dean Key: is fighting a case of shingles, let us be praying that with medicine that the shingles will quickly clear up and that she will have no further trouble

Upcoming Events

Today	Tri-County Singing {Here}	2:00 pm
May 7 th	Country Place {Devotional}	2:00 pm
May 14 th	Nursing Home {Winfield}	2:00 pm

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Sandy McCaleb: has started cancer treatments, please be praying that this cancer can be treated and defeated

Edward Skinner: has been recently diagnosed with cancer, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Lucas Dunnigan: leukemia cells are showing signs of growth, please pray that the doctors will be able to treat this successfully

Deborah Box: did find a small blood clot, please be praying that medicine will take care of this clot and there will be no further problems

Kay Dodd: diagnosed with colon cancer and will be undergoing treatments, please be praying that the treatments will defeat this cancer

Samuel Walker: having some heart problems, please be praying that he will receive help for this problems

Judd Tucker: recovering from a collapsed lung, please pray that he makes a full recovery and that there will be no more problems

Don Lawrence: is recovering from recent procedure to clear blockage in his carotid artery, let us pray that he will have no further problems

He Endured In Spite Of Complaints

One doesn't have to go far with Moses and the children of Israel into the wilderness before he is aware of one complaint after another. All of this was true in spite of things God did for them. They had been brought out of Egypt with a strong arm. They had seen wondrous things, but still they were given to complaints. They had all they could need, yet they would still complain. Such complaints are registered in Exodus 16:2-3.

He Endured In Spite Of Criticism

Moses was no more immune to criticism than any other man. Any man that is placed in a position of responsibility like this is bound to face it. You will find that even his own kin would criticize him (Num. 12:1-2).

The question is not, "will one be criticized?" That is going to occur. The real question is, "how will one react when such comes?" We know how it was handled in the case of Moses. He is said to be "very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth" (Num. 12:3). That means Moses had his feelings under control. It means he could keep his balance in the very difficult and trying situation.

When others later accused Moses of taking too much upon himself, he will show the same kind of self-control. He would not allow himself to make matters worse than they already were. He would allow the Lord to take care of the matter in his own way. That is the way he would handle criticism. He endured, and so can we.

Expositions of the Expositor, vol. 1, p. 530-531.

Better to Wear Out Than to Rust Out

By Mike Gifford

At what point may a Christian cut back on his or her service to God? At what stage of life is it acceptable for a child of God to lay down the sword of the Spirit and allow someone else to wage the daily war against Satan? The answers to these questions are the same and they are obvious. Not until we have breathed our last should we cease to work with all of our might in the vineyard of the Lord. The apostle Paul perfectly expressed this attitude when he wrote, “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” (II Timothy 4:6-8). Over the years it has been my privilege to witness valiant men and women of the cross not just continue their service to God but actually increase and improve their service to God even in the face of the ravages of illness and aging. Perhaps they could no longer speak as they once did, write as they once did or go out into the fields as they once did, but each of them found a way to serve in God’s kingdom.

Every faithful child of God wants to go home to be with Him in eternity. As we watch our Christian comrades one by one venture into the valley of the shadow of death, melancholy strikes our hearts and we long for the day when we ourselves can cast off this mortal coil and gather around the throne of the Lord with all of His saints in heaven. But while we are here, we still have work to do. Again we cite Paul. “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.” (Phil. 1:23-24). Paul felt the tug of eternal rest and peace on his heartstrings. He also felt the tug of weak and wandering souls who needed his spiritual leadership and strength. As much as he wanted heaven, he knew that he must not cease or even slow down in his work on earth.

Dear Christian, this is not the time to take a break in our work for God. Jesus said, “Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” (John 4:35). There are millions, even billions more souls on the face of the earth than there were when Jesus said this. There are millions more today than there were just ten years ago. At no time in the history of the world have the fields been whiter and more ready for harvest. The job of harvesting is not restricted to the young and energetic. Christians of all ages have a part that we can play in getting God’s message to the lost. We cannot stop.

My Christian friend, Satan is still fighting to take your soul as well as the souls of those around you. If you slip out of the spiritual battle garb now (Ephesians 6:11ff), you will make yourself vulnerable to every weapon Satan has in his arsenal. You will be unprotected. All the effort you put forth in earlier years will be wasted. Keep studying, keep praying, keep fighting back against temptation and sin for your own sake but also for the sake of those whom you may influence for eternity.

Yes, the road seems so long some times. Yes, our feet get weary and are hearts become loaded with the sorrows of the world. But there is rest ahead (Heb. 4:9-11). Moments of respite are afforded us here, but the final rest is in the eternal mansions of heaven (John 14:1-4). No matter your age or your physical condition, fight on with everything you have. Keep growing in the faith. Keep serving others. Keep teaching God’s truth all the way until the moment that the gates of eternal life open for you and you hear those welcome words, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” (Matthew 25:21). Let not one of us rust out due to lack of activity but let us each wear ourselves out in service to the One who gave His all for us.

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