

THE ENDURANCE OF THE SAINTS
WHY ARE SO MANY CHRISTIANS NOT ENDURING
7-5-20

Intro: This is the 4th of July weekend.

The official separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia declaring the United States independent from Great Britain rule.

It was on July 4th that the declaration of independence was signed, and it is for this reason that the 4th of July is celebrated and not the 2nd.

Yet John Adams wrote his wife about this decision in the following letter:

This day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.

Coincidentally, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, the only signers of the Declaration of Independence later to serve as Presidents of the United States, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration. Although not a signer of the Declaration of Independence, another Founding Father who became a President, James Monroe, also died on July 4, 1831, thus becoming the third President in a row who died on the holiday. Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President, was born on July 4, 1872,

As we celebrate this Holiday as the day which we could call the birth of our nation, we should remember back to the great sacrifices that were made to establish this great nation. The freedoms and the successes of this country did not come without a price.

In fact, nothing good ever happens without a cost.
So it is also true of our spiritual lives.

WHICH BRINGS US TO OUR TEXT.

II Timothy 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

II Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

II Timothy 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Mark 13:13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

II Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

Intro: I can think of scores if not hundreds of people that have not endured in their Christian walk as they should. Some have fallen aside to the world, some have abandoned their spouses for the pleasures of sin for a season, some have left their church, abandoned the faith. Some have become neglectful of their duties for the Lord. In short, THEY HAVE NOT ENDURED. And for the most part, because of the perceived hardness in sticking to the stuff.

The Christian walk will not be an easy walk. This is why the Apostle Paul says endure hardness as a good soldier.

This great nation of ours would never have become a free nation if the fathers of this country had not endured hardness.

The Salvation that we freely enjoy could never have come to us if our precious Lord and Savior had not endured the cross.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Our Text: II Timothy 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

ENDURANCE OF THE SAINTS

I am always amazed at the stories of endurance that we can read and have been told, especially about soldiers.

Someone shared with me the story of Louis Zamperini, a story of endurance, how great men endured hardness, were imprisoned, tortured, were war heroes.

He was an Olympic athlete who became a bombardier in WWII. His plane went down in the Pacific spent 33 days at sea. He endured that. Then was taken prisoner in 1943 and spent 2 years in Japanese prison camp. He was declared missing in action and even dead, but he endured all this and later came home.

Later he went to a Billy Graham meeting and was saved and became an evangelist himself. He served Christ till he died in July 2nd 2014 at the age of 97.

Do we not have a great cause to endure for our Lord? Yet so many cower and bend to such little pressure and adversity.

The least little thing causes so many to leave the work of the Lord. The least offence and so many run from one church to another looking for greener grass. Pastors hop from church to church.

I see this even with ministers of Christ who leave their churches and wife for another woman. I counseled with one man and said to him, after all that our Lord sacrificed for us can you not sacrifice what you want for what is right. Why is it we cannot see Christians endure and do right today?

I just sold a Piano to a lady who told me how her so called Christian husband left her with 3 children. Here was a man who went to Bible College, at one time wanted to go into the ministry. His father was a minister. Yet we find Christians who cannot endure in their marriages, in their churches. Is there not a cause!

WHY ARE WE SO WEAK, AND FRAIL, AND FICKLE IN OUR DEVOTION TO THE LORD?

As we think of the 4th of July we think of SOLDIERS WHO WERE CALLED UPON TO MAKE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR HIS COUNTRY.

JESUS SAID TO HIS CHURCH SMYRNA THEY WERE CALLED TO MAKE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR THEIR SAVIOR.

Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

ENDURE HARDNESS AS A GOOD SOLDIER.
DO WE NOT HAVE A GREAT CAUSE TO SUFFER FOR?

Why do some not endure?

THINK OF WHAT SO MANY ENDURED FOR A LESSOR CAUSE.

Signers of Declaration of Independence.
WHAT THEY ENDURED.

4th of July Celebrations. Amazing how for a temporal earthly cause so many of our forefathers suffered and endured great hardships.

Men Who Signed the Declaration Of Independence.

LET ME READ AN ARTICLE I FOUND.

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.

Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army.

Another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists.

Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death, if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr, noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.

Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates. Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution.

These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." They gave you and me a free and independent America.

The history books never told you a lot about what happened in the Revolutionary War. We didn't fight just the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government! Some of us take these liberties so much for granted, but we shouldn't. So take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid. Remember: freedom is never free!

Now we are living in a time where the very constitution that these men died for is being used to take down their statues because maybe some of them owned slaves back then. I think if they could see what our country has become I wonder if they would have sacrificed like they did?

What is worse, having slaves or killing babies?

What is worse, having slaves or burning down innocent peoples homes looting and robbing?

I had a fellow that came to learn how to work on pianos who came from Ghana, and he had a temporary visa to learn the craft and then he was to go back to his country and help the churches in his country. He came here, I fed him and paid him for the help of the ministries in Africa. I noticed he was procrastinating learning. I confronted him about it. He said to me, he had no desire to go back to his country. He wanted to stay in America. I said, that is not why I sponsored you to come here. He said, no no. He said the lucky ones were the black people that came to America as slaves. Here is what he said to me, I would gladly be your slave if you would let me stay in America. I said, I did not sponsor you to come to America to work for me, or to be my slave. I sponsored you to learn a trade and go back to your country and help your people and your churches.

What a twist we have in this nation today. We are all to believe that every white person is prejudiced and guilty because 150 years ago some of the southern states and slave owners abused black people. This is a bunch of nonsense!

Wherever there are sinners there will be abuses. Sinners by nature are abusive people. The only cure is Jesus Christ, and not civil unrest. Slavery is still going on. What do you think Jeffrey Epstein was up to? He was making sex slaves out of young girls and that is still going on in cities across our country because of drugs. Fight that war! March in the streets against that!

The North Abolished slavery in 1802 and it became illegal to bring slaves in from Africa after that, but slavery continued in the south and a great supporter of it was the Democrat party. The south by and large was filled with democrats. The north was republican. The Democrats are still promoting a form of slavery, it is called political correctness and affirmative action. It is prejudice in reverse. They keep inner city black people poor on welfare and drugs, killing each other. Every one of these cities are overcome with crime, drugs, and murders. Why don't they do something to free their cities of these vices?

You see that fellow I sponsored to come from Africa and learn some things to help his people said he wished he were taken to this country as a slave. These same people that want to destroy the very country that has given them the freedoms they enjoy are foolish. Could they protest in Marxist countries? Yet many of them declare themselves Marxist.

Look the only answer to abuse and to wrongs that human beings do to other human beings is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Yet many of these rioters hate Christ and Christianity and blame Christians for their woes and discontent. This is typical Marxism.

Louis Zamperini in his later years became an evangelist, One of his recurring themes was forgiveness, and he visited many of the guards from his POW days to let them know that he had forgiven them. This included an October 1950 visit to [Sugamo Prison](#) in Tokyo, where many war criminals were imprisoned, and expressed forgiveness to them. Zamperini told CBN that some became Christians in response.²⁴

Four days before his 81st birthday in January 1998, Zamperini ran a leg in the Olympic Torch relay for the [Winter Olympics](#) in [Nagano, Japan](#), not far from the POW camp where he had been held. While there, he attempted to meet with his chief and most brutal tormentor during the war, [Mutsuhiro Watanabe](#), also known as "the Bird", who had evaded prosecution as a [war criminal](#), but Watanabe refused to see him. However, Zamperini sent him a letter, stating that while he suffered great mistreatment from him, he forgave him. It is unknown if Watanabe even read the letter, and Zamperini received no response.

Now this is what black lives matter needs to do, these people need to come to Christ and forgive like Zamperini did. Jesus said, love them that hate you and persecute you. Yet these people that are all part of this movement, are not suffering, most have not suffered. Many of them are white young people declared to be Marxist that are using this unfortunate incident with this police mishap to further their agenda and could care less about blacks! We have politicians who really cared about black people they would help these poor people that are struggling with crime and murders, instead they want to

defund the police? I say to you the problem with all these people is a spiritual problem. They have not the love of Christ, they do not know how to forgive. They are crying out for the injustice of the one police officer that made a serious mistake and will pay for it for the rest of his life, so in response how many people have they murdered, how many buildings destroyed, how many people have been wounded? Do they care about abuse of force when they themselves are guilty of worse abuse? WHAT HYPOCRISY!

THINK OF WHAT OUR FOUNDING FATHER ENDURED. NOT FOR A HEAVENLY HOME.

NOT FOR A HEAVENLY COUNTRY. BUT EARTHLY.

HOW MUCH MORE SHOULD WE BE WILLING TO SUFFER FOR THE HEAVENLY CAUSE???

Is there not a cause? Let me tell you there is, the answer is in Jesus Christ and letting Him change hearts and minds.

As we think about the 4th of July and how our founding fathers of this nation sacrificed to give us this country that we all love, let us think about a greater country that someday we will be in.

Hebrews 11:14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

Hebrews 11:15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

Hebrews 11:16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Let me encourage you to endure whatever hardships you need to endure in this life in pursuit of that heavenly country. I am amazed that so many are not willing to endure for this great cause!

WHY IS IT THAT MANY DO NOT ENDURE IN THE CHURCH TODAY????

I. The Most Obvious Reason That Some People do Not Endure In Their Christian Commitment and Faith, The first and most obvious reason could be Because they are really not saved.

Mark 13:13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Jesus, in that great parable about the sower and the seed, described why some do not endure.

Mark 4:17 And have no root in themselves, and so **endure but for a time**: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

Those who are not saved will not have the power of God in their lives so they endure but for a while. They will not and can not endure.

Mark 4:17 puts it this way, they have no root in themselves. They endure for a time.

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

John 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

I remember when I was first saved and there were a lot of things that I did not understand. I saw inconsistencies in the Bible college I was going to, I saw insincerity. When my father got sick and was dying I was praying for his salvation. He was in a coma for 3 weeks and 3 days. I really believed that God was going to use this sickness to humble him and save him. I got the call on a Wednesday Oct. 20th 1976 and three weeks and three days later I got the call that he died Nov. 13th. I remember when I came back from the funeral sitting in our little New Moon trailer wondering what now. Then I flipped my Bible open to John 6.

John 6:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

John 6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

John 6:69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

John 6:70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

I realized that God chose me, to come to Him and where could I go? I put my hand to the plow and there was no turning back!

1. THE BIBLE TESTIFIES TO THIS AND IS CLEAR THAT MANY DO NOT ENDURE BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT REALLY SAVED: Consider these verses:

I John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

Those who go out and deny these truths, and reject the Bible and the teaching of the Bible, really were never part of the church to begin with.

Jesus said it clearly about Judas:

John 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

2. *The Bible teaches that God will give us the grace to endure for Him. And we will endure in our faith.*

I Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

We are kept by the power of God. We are plugged in to God's power by the Holy Spirit.

Why did Peter not walk away from the Lord?
He Cursed. He denied Him. Yet he endured.

Jesus prayed for him and said to him:

Luke 22:32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

Luke 22:32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: (ENDURE) and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

JESUS PRAYED FOR HIS BELIEVERS TO ENDURE!!!

John 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

John 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

John 17:13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

John 17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

John 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

John 17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

THINK OF THIS. IF YOU ARE HIS. JESUS PRAYED FOR YOU TO ENDURE.

If we are His children we may stumble, we may falter, but we will not be cast down and out.

I use the illustration often about how we are born dead: Consider a fan, or top that is spinning. We are born into this world dead. We are like a fan where the power is turned off. We are but a spin off from Adam and Eve. We may appear to have life, but that life is just a spin off from Adam, and each generation gets weaker physically. When you get born again, it is only then that you truly get life!

The Bible is full of verses that teach this.

John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

John 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Note these verses:

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Romans 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

How do you explain what we see today in many of those who profess Christ?

It is like the fellow who got a flat tire coming to church and then decided that he wouldn't come any more because God did not protect his car.

Or the Lady that decided to stop coming to church because there was a period where a lot of people died and we had a lot of funerals in the church.

I guarantee none of these people were saved. That is why they did not endure.

Through the years we have had a lot of family members come to this church because other family members came but once their loved one died they stop coming.

Just because your parents are saved.

Just because dad is a deacon.

Just because mom is Christian.

Just because you were raised in the church.

IT MEANS NOTHING. Unless you are born again.

3. That A Truly Saved Believer Will Endure Is Not To Be Confused With Works Salvation:

Many misunderstand this biblical teaching and conclude that when you teach what the Bible teaches on this subject of endurance that you are teaching works salvation.

No one is saved by works, but everyone who is saved will produce good works.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Ephesians 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

In fact the Bible teaches that when a person commits certain sins and continues in them then we should judge them by their works and treat them like they are not saved.

Ye shall know them by their fruits Matt. 7:16.

YOU SAY WHAT IF THEY ARE SAVED. WELL, THEN THEY WILL COME TO THEIR SENSES AND GOD WILL WORK IN THEIR HEARTS TO BRING THEM TO REPENTANCE.

The Scripture says,

Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Hebrews 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Hebrews 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

If you are a child of God you cannot live in sin and not be chastened of the Lord. This is a promise of Scripture. God deals with His own!

A. THE BIBLE TEACHES THE FOLLOWING ABOUT CHURCH DISCIPLINE WHEN A PERSON CONTINUES IN OPEN SIN.

The Bible Teaches That Fornication and Adultery Should Be Dealt With.

I Corinthians 5:1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

I Corinthians 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I Corinthians 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

I Corinthians 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

Can a person be saved and get into gross sin? Yes but they will be chastened of God for it. If they are truly His.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Hebrews 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Hebrews 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

A Person who lives in sin and does not experience chastening is not a child of God. And the church should be part of that disciplinary vehicle.

Sad, but most churches today are concerned about one thing only – numbers, and not purity. A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

B. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT A PERSON WHO REFUSES TO LISTEN TO THE CHURCH AND BE RECONCILED TO A BROTHER SHOULD BE TREATED AS IF THEY ARE NOT SAVED.

Matthew 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

Note, this is not even gross sin.

Context. This is forgiveness, and reconciliation.

Matthew 18:33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

Matthew 18:34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

Matthew 18:35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Bitterness, unforgiveness, holding a grudge, are not Christian attributes.

Matthew 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

Matthew 6:15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

C. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT A PERSON WHO REFUSES TO WORK SHOULD BE SEPARATED FROM AND TREATED AS A NON BELIEVER.

II Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

II Thessalonians 3:11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

II Thessalonians 3:12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

II Thessalonians 3:13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

II Thessalonians 3:14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

As I see the thousands of protestors, rioting and looting in the streets of our major cities, I ask myself this question, "Where are they getting the time off from work to have time to riot and do what they are doing?" I think they need to all get a job! I am too busy to take time to do the nonsense these people are doing.

The Bible clearly teaches that we should take note of a professing believers actions and if they are in gross outward violation of the teachings of Scripture we can and should call them into question for it.

Almost no church today practices this.

Episcopal Pastor in Hawaii said if I had to discipline all the homosexuals out of my church I would have no church.

Then he should have no church and get an honest job.

Think about it, the greatest Apostle of all chose to work with his own hands at times when he felt it was for the glory of God.

Is the ministry, a job, or a calling? It is a calling, not a job.

MANY OPPOSE THIS TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE AND GO BEYOND THE SCRIPTURE, TEACHING THAT ANYONE WHO TEACHES THE ENDURANCE OF THE SAINTS OR THE PERSEVERANCE IS TEACHING WORKS SALVATION.

THESE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD TEACH THAT A PERSON CAN BE SAVED AND SHOW ABSOLUTELY NO SIGNS OF IT. TO THEM SALVATION IS A SIMPLE PRAYER THAT IS SAID.

A DECISION THAT A PERSON MAKES. AND HAS NOTHING AT ALL TO DO WITH THE WORKING OF GOD IN A PERSONS HEART. IT IS MAN'S CHOICE AND HIS CHOICE ALONE.

II. PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST CANNOT ENDURE.

SALVATION IS OBTAINED BY THE SINCERE EXERCISE OF FAITH BY THE GRACE OF GOD WORKING IN OUR HEARTS.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

Romans 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

1. When the word of God is preached and a person believes that message, new spiritual life is conceived in their hearts.

This is not a human work. It is a divine work of God in a man's heart. You don't do anything for it.

Don't quit smoking, drinking, cursing, don't reform yourself.

It is not that you are so good that it is something you could or would choose. You were not seeking it.

Like Adam who was running from God so were we. God came after us and drew us back to Himself.

He gets the credit.

He gets the glory.

He gets the honor..

He gets the accolades.

It is just the opposite.

Those who would accuse us of teaching works salvation are actually guilty of that very thing. They have just watered down that work to a simple action of the will.

Man's will and choice has become the work that causes a man to be saved.

So many would water down salvation to mean that it is action or work of man's free will.

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

NO MAN CAN COME. NO MAN CAN COME. NO MAN CAN COME.

Romans 9:15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

Romans 9:16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

Romans 9:17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

Romans 9:18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.

Romans 9:19 Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will?

Romans 9:20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?

Romans 9:21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

People will say why then do we ask people to believe?

The reason we do is because God told us to preach His word.

He said to Ezekiel preach to these dry bones and they will live.

Ezekiel could have said why should I? God said, because I said so.

Did the dry bones have power to live by themselves?

GOD SPOKE AND MADE ALL THINGS.

WHY DO WE MARVEL THAT WHEN WE PREACH HIS WORD HE CREATES NEW LIFE IN A PERSON HEART?

Now will we say no that new life is their decision only?

Did the Sun decide to become the sun?

Did the Moon choose it's own orbit?

Did the stars just happen? According to the Humanist they did.

According to the atheistic evolutionist it did!

SO TOO, WE DON'T CHOOSE WHAT SEX WE ARE. GOD MAKES US WHAT WE ARE.

Transgender nonsense is just that. Nonsense. A rejection of God and how He made us. All this is part of God's judgment on people who have rejected Him as their creator.

Why are we so reluctant to give God the credit for what He has done?

Note the context of this passage says:

Romans 9:20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?

Romans 9:21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

2. AFTER A PERSON BELIEVES they obtain assurance of salvation as they observe what God is doing in their lives.

Can the Sun deny it is the sun?

Can the moon deny it is the moon?

Does a bird question why it can fly?

So as we observe what God has done for us, how can we deny what He has done in our lives?

Do you think I choose to be a preacher?

Do you think that could have left my family friends and business?

Do you think I would have left my career?

Ken Knapp's daughter Alison, says she doesn't like looking at pictures of me before I was saved. She doesn't want to believe that that was her Pastor. Well it wasn't. I was dead when I was playing in that Rock and Roll band, now I am alive. Some people who are not saved, think I was alive back then and now I am dead. I am dead to the world, alive unto God.

I cannot deny what God has done in my life. I did not do it, i did not plan it, I did not choose it! I had other plans. I had another agenda!

WE CANNOT DENY WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN OUR LIVES. THAT IS OBJECTIVE.
FAITH IS SUBJECTIVE.

Works are objective, you can doubt your faith, you cannot doubt the work God has done in your heart.

I had a preacher friend that was having financial problems and he was a fine musician. I gave him some pointers on how to tune pianos. I said just start going out tuning pianos. It will help you financially. He said to me, what if people ask me how you learned and how do they know that you know what you are doing? I said, no one ever asks me that, because as soon as I get into their house I start working on their piano and my works tell them I know what I am doing. Look, either you can or you can't, your works prove who you are and what you are. If you are a bird you fly, if you don't fly I could question if you are a bird. If you are a fish you swim, if you can't swim I would question if you are a fish. If you are a Christian you walk and act like a Christian, if you don't I would question if you are a Christian.

James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

This is why God commands every believer to be baptized immediately after they are saved. WHY? SO THEY CAN SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN THEIR LIVES. You are not saved by baptism, but if you are saved you will want to be baptized.

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Those who do not follow through with baptism will not endure.

How is it that Jesus suffered all that He suffered and we cannot be inconvenienced to be baptized? Something wrong with that!

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

We gain assurance as we gain experience in our walk with God.

Every time the Bible talks about knowing you are saved it mentions a work.

I John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

I John 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

I John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

We know we are saved because we believe on Him. Did we always believe?
Is not our faith a by product of the life He has given us?

Only those who are saved truly believe.

Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

3. Paul called some Christians' Salvation into question because of their inconsistency.

II Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

II Corinthians 13:6 But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.

WHY ARE THERE SO FEW THAT ARE ENDURING IN THEIR CHRISTIANITY TODAY?

The reason is because, I believe, we are making accommodations for the unregenerate in our churches.

We are making the unsaved feel comfortable in our churches.

Conclusion: Invitation:

Why do some not endure? Most of the time it is because they are not saved. There are other factors which we will talk about tonight, but salvation and endurance go hand in hand.

Are you a child of God?

Lack assurance of your salvation because of one thing:

Titus 3:14 And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

Galatians 6:3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

Galatians 6:4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

Galatians 6:5 For every man shall bear his own burden.

You are not saved by good works but you will never experience the joy and assurance of your salvation unless you maintain a consistent walk with the Lord. Let us not be like some who teach you can live like the devil and enjoy eternal security and peace with God.

NONSENSE. The Bible says ye shall know them by their fruits. You can know yourself also by your fruits. Examine yourself. Communion. time of self examination.

PART TWO

WHY DO PEOPLE NOT ENDURE.

- I. THEY ARE NOT SAVED.**
- II. THEY HAVE NOT THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST.**
- III. ANOTHER REASON PEOPLE DON'T ENDURE:
IS BECAUSE MANY DO NOT VIEW THEMSELVES AS SOLDIERS.**

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT MOST CHRISTIANS DO NOT SEE THEMSELVES AS SOLDIERS.

Intro:

The main reason that the Japanese attacked us at Pearl Harbor was because they believed we would have no heart to fight a war. They viewed America as weak with no spirit to sacrifice or fight. We were full of food and luxury with no stomach for hardship or fighting. One general thought it a mistake and called USA a sleeping giant and a war would only awaken us.

IN A FEW YEARS AMERICA WOKE UP AND SHOWED THE NECESSARY COURAGE TO CHANGE THE TIDE AROUND THE WORLD.

Maybe the church needs a Pearl Harbor wake up call. Maybe the coronavirus, and these riots, and world conditions are God trying to stir our nests to action?

There is no stomach for hardships in the church of Jesus Christ today.

Most Christians do not view themselves as soldiers.

The Bible says, Endure hardness as a good soldier.

The #1 reason people do not endure in their Christian life is because they are not willing to endure hardness.

1. The Church has become a night club and not a boot camp for soldiers.
2. The Church has become a social club and not a fortress for the Lord.
3. The church has become a concert hall and not headquarters of operations.

Soldiers must endure hardness.

Soldiers need to train and expect difficult challenges.

What gets into some soldiers to be willing to volunteer for assignments that surely would cause their death?

Japanese Soldiers. Kamikaze pilots. Philosophy.

Many people would quit after experiencing hardships, set backs, etc.

Many times we give the wrong impression when we encourage people to take the easy road and try to make things easy for them!

A. *Soldiers are taught to endure hardships.*

B. *One of the reasons our young people do not endure in the church is because we are gearing them up to be good time charley Christians and not soldiers.*

IV. *Why Do Some Not Endure? The reason some do not endure is because THEY THINK THEY ARE SECURE BECAUSE THEY ARE HEARERS OF THE WORD AND NOT DOERS.*

Matthew 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Matthew 7:25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Matthew 7:26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

Matthew 7:27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Which one has a house that endures???

So it is that we need to take to heart what the Bible says and not just be entertained by it.

This is what happens when people come to church to be entertained.

Ezekiel 33:30 Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one

to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the LORD.

Ezekiel 33:31 And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.

Ezekiel 33:32 And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.

Ezekiel 33:33 And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them.

When people come to be entertained then trials and problems come they are gone because it is no longer fun and entertaining.

This is the difference between those who are committed and those who only want to hear but do not want to do.

The most important truths in the Bible are the ones that we need to act upon.

II Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

II Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

WHY DO SOME NOT ENDURE:

- 1. SOME ARE NOT SAVED.**
- 2. SOME HAVE NOT HIS GRACE AND SPIRIT & POWER.**
- 3. SOME DO NOT VIEW THEMSELVES AS SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS.**
- 4. SOME WANT THEIR EARS TICKLED AND ENTERTAINED BY PREACHING.**

God help us, to have ears to hear, a heart to serve, a spirit to endure, and character to work for God and not seek to be entertained!

Here is a note Bob DeWitt wrote concerning the Black Lives matters protestors:

From Bob DeWitt.. "MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH BLM AND PROTESTORS:

Recently I unintentionally found myself in the middle of a BLM street protest. My experience proved to me that their movement is not about Black Lives or, in particular, George Floyd. The chanting crowd was mostly young people, and mostly Caucasian. They seemed to be very passionate about their cause. However, when asked why they were protesting, several explained that they were all receiving \$100 for doing so. There were many Satanists, chanting "Hail Satan!" Two witches were casting spells. They used the most vile words possible in the English

language. They were crude, disrespectful, and had no honor. They assaulted and battered several people physically. There were obvious organizers among them. All espoused textbook socialism. But, they could not explain it or how it would help them have more freedom than what they currently have to protest as they were doing.

These are very naive young people who think they are educated. They are extremely bitter, as though they have been deeply hurt or disappointed by someone in whom they put trust. Most have not worked for what they have; they have never paid a price for what they enjoy; they have never seen any other country or system outside the U.S. So, their experience is small. But, they are having fun, and they feel empowered when they protest and disrespect others. Someone has taught them these things, and not at all for their own benefit. They are being used to promote something they cannot keep, by people who do not care about them, even a little.

CHRISTIAN: THESE PROTESTS ARE ALL OVER OUR COUNTRY. SOMEONE IS ORGANIZING THEM AND SOMEONE IS PAYING BIG MONEY FOR THEM. I UNDERSTAND MUCH OF IT WILL STOP AFTER THE ELECTION. OR, MAYBE IT WILL GET WORSE. ARE YOU PRAYING? FASTING? ARE WE AWAKE YET? IT'S TIME TO GET REAL. NO?"