

**THE ENDURANCE OF THE SAINTS
WHY ARE SO MANY FALTERING?
8-17-19**

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;

A few years back I went to a viewing and there I saw at least 30 people who at one time or another came to our church, but most have drifted away. Most of the children of these people are also not living for the Lord. Sad.

Many people ask what causes people to turn from the Lord and his church? This is a good question. In fact, I think it is the number one problem we face in the work of God today. Why do people drift from the Lord?

One person who was at that viewing walked out on her husband and once sang in our choir. She abandoned her family, her children, and the church. As I made eye contact with her a look came over her as if she had seen the Lord Himself. How sad, how tragic. We can only wonder why.

My wife said to me, "maybe she thought you were going to scold her?" Maybe I should have? Truthfully I have been pastoring for 36 years now, and I still do not have all the answers.

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

Paul tells us that we are supposed to be soldiers for the cross. Every soldier is expected to endure hardness.

ENDURANCE OF THE SAINTS

I. MAYBE PEOPLE DO NOT ENDURE FOR THE LORD BECAUSE THEY DO NOT VIEW THEMSELVES AS BEING SOLDIERS FOR CHRIST

When I think of the civil war, I am always amazed at how the men of the civil war could fight like they did. What a crazy way to fight a war. Line up and shoot. Then they line up and shoot back.

How could these men endure these hardships, the cold, the heat, the strain, the pain? The bloodiest war that we ever fought as a nation was the civil war.

Why is it the least little thing causes so many to leave the work of the Lord?
The least little offence and so many run from one church to another looking for greener pastures. Pastors hop from church to church, also.

ENDURE HARDNESS AS A GOOD SOLDIER.

I think of that great hymn:

Am I a soldier of the cross,
A follow'r of the Lamb?
And shall I fear to own His cause,
Or blush to speak His name?

Must I be carried to the skies
On flow'ry beds of ease,
While others fought to win the prize,
And sailed through bloody seas?

Are there no foes for me to face?
Must I not stem the flood?
Is this vile world a friend to grace,
To help me on to God?

Sure I must fight if I would reign;
Increase my courage, Lord;
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,
Supported by Thy Word.

Why do some not endure? I believe it is because they do not view themselves as soldiers for Christ.

Signers of Declaration of Independence
WHAT THEY ENDURED:

Amazing, how for a temporal earthly cause so many of our forefathers suffered and endured great hardships.

Consider the men who signed the Declaration Of Independence.

Let me read what happened to many of these men:

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 McKean 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 for granted, but we shouldn't. So, take a few minutes every 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!

THINK OF WHAT THESE MEN 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???

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

I. FIRST OF ALL, MAYBE IT IS BECAUSE THEY DO NOT VIEW THEMSELVES AS SOLDIERS AT WAR:

Secondly:

II. The Most Obvious Reason That Some People do Not Endure, Is 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 do not have the power of God in their lives so they endure but for a while.

Mark 4:17 puts it this way they have no root in themselves and so they endure for a time

I use the illustration often when I witness of a fan or top that is spinning we are born into this world dead we are like a top. We are but a spin off from Adam and Eve. We may appear to have 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?

There was a little lady that was coming faithfully to the church until we had about 4-5 funerals in a row. Suddenly she stopped coming. I saw her in a mall one time and flagged her down and

asked her where she had been. She replied, "Pastor, I just can't take it. I said, take what? She said, you know, all the funerals.

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.

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

1 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.

1 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 into God's power by the Holy Spirit.

Why did Peter not walk away from the Lord?
He Cursed, He denied Him, yet he endured in the end.

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;

If we are His children we may stumble we may falter like the Apostle Peter did, but we will not be cast down and out.

Proverbs 24:16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

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 sin 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.

A. THE BIBLE TEACHES THE FOLLOWING ABOUT CHURCH DISCIPLINE:

The Bible Teaches The 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.

The Bible gives a list of sins that we can call a persons salvation into question over.

I Corinthians 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

I Corinthians 6:10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

I Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

People that have a lifestyle of these sins cannot be saved.

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:

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, and 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.

The Bible clearly teaches that we should take note of a professing believer's 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 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? If it is a calling the man of God will do whatever the Lord tells him to do to fulfill that calling. A calling is not dictated by money, or how many people you have or externals!

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

III. 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, cussing, don't reform yourself.

It is not that you are so good that it is something would 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.

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, new life is a persons 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.

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 I could have left my family friends and business for what?
Do you think I would have left my career to be a preacher in a small country church?

All this is God's work in my heart. When I first came to the church, I would have people say to me, you will not be here very long. You're young you will be looking for a bigger church. That kind of thinking was alien to me. I was happy to be wherever God wanted me. I don't decide that! Does a soldier tell his commanding officer where he is to be deployed?

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.

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? NO!
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?

First of all, I think they come to Christ with false expectations. We need to realize that when we come to Christ we sign up to be soldiers for Christ.

- I. WE NEED TO COUNT THE COST AS A SOLDIER THAT IS WHY PEOPLE DO NOT ENDURE.***
- II. MANY PEOPLE WHO COME TO CHRIST ARE NOT REALLY SAVED THAT IS WHY THEY DO NOT ENDURE.***
- III. WE ARE MAKING OUR CHURCHES COMFORTABLE FOR THE UNSAVED TO STAY AND THAT IS WHY WE HAVE SUCH A HIGH DROP OUT RATE. WE LOWER THE STANDARDS OF SALVATION OR RECOGNIZING SALVATION.***

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. bBut 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.

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?

If you are here and are sure that you have received Christ and are truly saved and one of the redeemed then let me remind you what the apostle Paul said even about himself:

I Corinthians 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

I Corinthians 9:26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

I Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

The Apostle himself, warned that we ought to strive for masteries in the Christian life. We are in a race. We need to discipline our lives and endure hardness. We are soldiers for Christ.

The Apostle Paul said it was possible for even for himself to become a castaway.

What is a castaway? The word means to be rejected to become a castaway, means to no longer be able to be used for God for his service. The word is also translated reprobate.

adokimos, ad-ok'-ee-mos; from 1 (as a neg. particle) and 1384; unapproved, i.e. rejected; by impl. worthless (lit. or mor.): -castaway,

rejected, reprobate.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

α, al'-fah; of Heb. or.; the first letter of the alphabet; fig. only (from its use as a numeral) the first:-Alpha. Often used (usually an, before a vowel) also in composition (as a contraction from 427) in the sense of privation; so in many words beginning with this letter; occasionally in the sense of union (as a contraction of 260).

δοκίμος, dok'-ee-mos; from 1380; prop. acceptable (current after assayal), i.e. approved:-approved, tried.

Imagine the apostle Paul said of himself that if he didn't keep his body under subjection it was potential that he himself would become a castaway and no longer be able to be used of God. Just think what the Christian world would be without the Apostle Paul. There are 27 books in the New Testament and over half of those books were written by the Apostle Paul. I believe 14 of them. If he became a castaway we would not have them.

One of the reasons the world is as bad as it is in our day is because we are seeing more and more castaways and reprobates. People who give up the fight. Christians who stop running the race. The pressures of this world are too great. There were two funerals that we had this past week. Two great church members went home to be with the Lord. Men who loved this church and supported this church. Now they are gone. I do not see anyone in their families who are left behind to take up their mantle spiritually. This is the dilemma that we are facing. Our world is by and large becoming REPROBATE! The world is filled with reprobates.

Will you endure to the end for the Lord?

PART TWO

I. ONE OF THE MAIN REASON PEOPLE DON'T ENDURE: BECAUSE MANY DO NOT VIEW THEMSELVES AS SOLDIERS. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT MOST CHRISTIANS DO NOT SEE THEMSELVES AS SOLDIERS.

When I dedicated my heart to the Lord the church had a film portraying life as a spiritual battle between Satan and God. That morning I felt like I wanted to join God's army. One of the reasons I have endured in my Christian life is because I had no false illusions about what I was getting into. I knew it was a cause, a battle, a struggle, that was worth fighting.

A while back I bought a historical documentary series on all the major wars of the US. Starting with WW I - Desert Storm.

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 a "Sleepy Giant" full of food and luxury with no stomach for hardship or fighting.

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.

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. They are on vacation.

- 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 became Kamikaze pilots. Their philosophy was that Americans would quit after experiencing the hardships and set backs and sufferings of war.

Many times we give the wrong impression when we encourage people that if they come to Christ happy days are here again!

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. Look at the philosophy of our youth group mentality.

C. In the early church, the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the church!

II. PEOPLE DO NOT ENDURE BECAUSE THEY REALLY ARE NOT SAVED.

The Bible says, we need to examine ourselves.

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?

III. WE ARE MAKING ACCOMMODATION FOR THE UNSAVED IN OUR CHURCHES AND REDEFINING SALVATION.

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. There is a false sense of security!

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 the house that endures???

Just being a hearer of the Word of God does not make you a Christian.

Just because you come to church does not make you a believer.

I Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Many have false security. They think they are safe. They think all is well.

Again, we should be reminded that the greatest Christian that ever lived (I believe) was the apostle Paul and he said,

I Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Invitation: The question is tonight, WILL YOU ENDURE FOR IN YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE FOR CHRIST!?