

Section III, Part XII: Steadfastness & Endurance

Summary: The key to endurance and steadfastness is to look unto Jesus. That is, a man must look away from all else to gaze upon Jesus Christ and His sufferings. To see Jesus' life and how He laid it down; to not just gaze upon it for knowledge, but for to know the man who did it, Jesus, and to be connected to Him, to follow Him, for it is He who gives us the strength and grace to endure. May God direct our hearts to experience all of life with endurance and joy, with steadfastness, resoluteness: not being drawn away or distracted from The Lord, but with firmness, continuing even through afflictions to follow Him and love Him.

- I. To be steadfast means, "fast fixed; firm; firmly fixed or established...resolute; not fickle or wavering."
- II. Endurance means, "continuance; a state of lasting or duration...a bearing or suffering; a continuing under pain or distress without resistance, or without sinking or yielding to the pressure..."
 - a. Thus, because Jesus exemplified it most perfectly, as men, we are to be firmly fixed in God's ways without wavering. We are to bear through suffering and pressure without yielding to it, instead continuing to seek and obey God.
- III. **Jesus endured and was steadfast in all His suffering, looking unto God, knowing that He wouldn't be ashamed.**
 - a. Isaiah 50:4-9 - *Jesus set His face like a flint. Hard enough to not be moved by men or affliction, but soft enough to be moved by God*
 - i. 1 Samuel 2:2, 2 Samuel 22:2 - *The LORD is our steady Rock; He makes us steadfast*
 - ii. Isaiah 50:7; Confounded = to be ashamed
 1. קָלַם = Opened up to a chaotic/troublesome yoke/authority
 - a. The Lord is steady, a rock. His yoke is well fitting. I won't be ashamed in the sense that I shall not come to find that obedience/submission to Jesus' yoke/God's yoke was unto trouble or chaos
 - iii. Isaiah 50:7; ashamed = to be confused by failure or disappointment
 1. Deuteronomy 31:6
 2. John 14:18



Video: Outline Pt I-VIII

- a. God will not leave us. Therefore we shall not be confused by failure, nor ashamed.
 - 3. **בֵּית** = The home is joined to destruction
 - a. The Lord is my home; and as such, shall never be destroyed. He will not fail me nor disappoint me.
 - iv. Verse 6 – *Jesus gave Himself up willingly and joyfully to affliction for our sakes*
 - 1. Psalms 16:8-10
 - b. Hebrews 12:2 – *Jesus despised the shame and endured the cross for us*
- IV. **Jesus was unafraid, but gladly welcomed those sufferings which were given to Him of The Father, not avoiding them, but steadfastly marching toward them**
 - a. Luke 9:51-56 – *The time of His taking up*
 - i. C.f., John 12:23 – *The time for Jesus to be glorified*
 - 1. Should be glorified = an aorist passive subjunctive verb.
 - a. Blue Letter Bible on the subjunctive mood, “...The action described may or may not occur, depending upon circumstances....”
 - b. **Jesus had the opportunity to pass this up, if He so desired; but out of love He endured. He chose to endure for our sakes, to die for us**
 - ii. John 12:24-28, 32-33 – *Jesus attitude was that The Father would be glorified and men would be saved. He set His heart/mind upon the good, and not the affliction, and endured*
- V. **Jesus endured the cross, steadfastly, resolutely going to it and not letting other things prevent it**
 - a. Matthew 26:50-54 – *Jesus desired to fulfil God’s word, even though He could have saved Himself*
 - i. Jesus did not take legitimate “outs” – every open door is not necessarily a door for us to walk through. Jesus endured in performing God’s will, passing every test, showing that He genuinely desired to accomplish God’s will even though it meant suffering.
 - 1. C.f., Acts 20:22-24; 21:13
 - 2. C.f., Acts 16:25-34
 - b. **Jesus willingly gave His life up, endured God’s wrath for us: because it was God’s will and because He loved us.**

- i. Isaiah 53:10
- ii. John 10:14-18; 19:28-30
- iii. Luke 23:46

VI. **Jesus loved to the end, didn't give up or stop short**

- a. John 13:1

VII. **Philippians 3:7-21**

- a. Verses 12-14 literal, *"Not as though I had already laid hold of what has been offered, either were already completed: but I continue to aggressively pursue, if perhaps to seize upon [that reason for] which also Christ Jesus seized me about. Brethren, I do not continue to calculate/reason [as if] I have seized: but [this] one thing [I do calculate/reason according to], [that is,] forgetting those things which are behind, and stretching forth unto those things which are before, I continue to aggressively pursue the goal for the prize of the upward calling of God in Christ Jesus."*
- b. Hold fast to what Jesus has called us to. Continue to aggressively pursue Him, and move forward, not being moved away. For He has taken hold of us, and our citizenship is in heaven; we have a specific reason and calling upon our lives from Jesus, so let us seek to fulfil it by His power.
 - i. Colossians 1:11
 - ii. 2 Thessalonians 3:5
 - iii. Hebrews 3:6

VIII. **Hebrews 12:1-2**

- a. Literal text, *"Wherefore we also being compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, having laid off/laid aside every weight, and the easily surrounding sin, with endurance we should continue to run the race being set before us. Looking away from all else to look to Jesus the originator and completer of the faith; who for the joy being set before him endured the cross, lightly esteeming the shame, and has sat down at both the right hand of the throne and [the right hand] of God."*
 - i. Continue, with endurance, looking at Jesus and His sufferings and His faith, run the race which daily is being set before us.
 - ii. Isaiah 40:30-31 – *Be tied to The LORD for the strength to do this*

Part XII: Steadfastness & Endurance

- 129 -

5. Endurance and steadfastness mean that when hardship comes, a man will do what?

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