

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE LETTER OF JAMES

PERSEVERENCE

James 5:10-11 “Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about.”

Some hold a false understanding of what the life of a Christian should be like. They believe a believer in Jesus Christ should have a life free of difficulty. If God truly loves those who believe in Him, He should protect their life from the kind of trials and tribulations non-believers deserve and experience.

James’ letter makes it abundantly clear that Christians will face obstacles, endure difficulties, experience heart ache and tribulation. The purpose of his letter is to give encouragement to Christians who are living lives under these conditions. In fact, many of the trials and tribulations they experience are due to the fact they are practicing, committed Christians who willingly endure persecution for their faith rather than deny their Lord and Savior Jesus.

One of the best-known Bible characters who suffered greatly because of his faith in Yahweh was Job. If you remember, the Devil asked God for permission to cause all kinds of bad things to happen to Job in order to cause Job to give up his faith in Yahweh. In spite of the terrible things the Devil caused to happen in Job’s life, the loss of practically everything earthly, Job remained faithful. James holds up Job’s perseverance, resolve, firmness of faith, commitment to Yahweh as a model for you and all Christians. “As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about.” (James 5:10-11)

Think and meditate on these words of St. Paul found in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary,

but what is unseen is eternal.” God gives you His Holy Spirit to keep you in the true faith to life everlasting.

Prayer: Lord, keep me steadfast, immoveable, always strengthened in my faith by the power of Your Holy Spirit through Your Word and Sacraments. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

I love Your kingdom, Lord, The place of Your abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved With His own precious blood.

Beyond my highest joy I prize its heav’nly ways,
Its sweet communion, solemn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.

I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev’ry land,
Dear as the apple of Your eye And graven on Your hand.

For them my tears shall fall; For them my prayers ascend,
For them my cares and toils be giv’n Till toils and cares shall end.

Sure as Your truth shall last, To Zion shall be giv’n
The brightest glories earth can yield And brighter bliss of heav’n.
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