

5th Apr 24, 8:30 P.M.

"A PRAYER FOR PATIENCE"

2 Thess. 3:5

Most impressive prayer - "The Lord direct your hearts into the patience of Christ."

Meaning -- clear and accurate.

If ever a timely prayer, this one by Paul,

The call to patience is everywhere in the Bible. Again and again we are summoned -- James - "Take my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction and of patience. Behold, we count them happy who endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord, that the Lord is very pitiful and of tender mercy.")

Jesus admonished us - "In your patience, ye shall win your souls."

Every step of the earthly life needs to be fortified with patience. It is one virtue needed by everyone always and everywhere.

The child in school constantly needs this virtue of patience. The boy needs this on the playground. The mother needs this in the home, the never ceasing duties. The father in the burdens of daily work. The worker in every realm is in constant need of patience. The Preacher will need this in a large degree, or he will be tempted to (resign) about once a week.

British Prime Minister, (William Pitt), was once asked, what he would name as the first qualification for the British Prime Minister.



He answered "Patience"

What is the second qualification

Quickly answered, "Patience"

A third time what is No. 3

Same -- "Patience".

Jesus said in your patience, ye shall win your souls.

Often tempted to impatience.

As Lake of Galilee swept by unexpected storm.

Think -- Moses -- meekest man losing his patience -- shattered the tables of law.

Peter - anger - cut off the ear of one of the servants. The Master, "Put up again Thy sword into its place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."

Noblest folks are often impatient.

Texts directs attention to perfect pattern of patience - the pattern is Christ.

The patience of Christ of his virtues is perfect. We must look to him. Imitators.

### 1. Patience Dealing With Own Disciples

They were ignorant -- learned his teaching slowly.

At times selfish.



One said -- "Lord show us the Father and it sufficeth us."

"Have I been so long time with you. Yet hast Thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father, how sayest Thou then, show us the Father?"

Two Disciples insisted they be allowed to sit, one on the right hand, the other on the left in his Kingdom.

They were slow to comprehend the spiritual nature.

The people (pressed) in upon him. Where ever he went multitudes followed. He could not be hid. All sought help.

Most beautiful (portrait) given him in the New Testament. Five brief words (- "Who went about doing good.")

His constant attitude toward the people - overflowing helpfulness.

His actions - "The son of man came not to be ministered unto but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Kindness, gracious to others.

## 2. Towards His Foes

Still more wonderful. They sought to circumvent his plans and frustrate his work, whichever way he went but his patience was undimmed.

Not the patience of weakness.



He told his opposers, he could call the Father and secure 12 legions of angels to come to his aid if he so desired.

His patience not the patience of Stoicism. There was never another so sensitive as he, or who felt the sins and woes of earth.

Nor was it like a savage bearing torture in grim silence.

He prayed for his murderers and gave gentlest answers to most cruel words.

### 3. Think Of His Patience In His Work

He saw few visible results of his work while here in the flesh.

He was rather a sower than a reaper.

Great multitudes followed him at first, but under his words, they kept falling away, from him until one day he put the question to the twelve -- "Will ye also go away?"

Still he never faltered, but went steadily on and on undiscouraged. Isaiah said, "He shall not fail, nor be discouraged."

### 4. Again Note His Patience In Accepting The Father's Will

"My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."



"The Father hath not left me alone, for I do always those things that please him."

He accepted the Father's will as you and I are to accept it.

In darkness of Gethsemane, he prayed -- "O, My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt."

That is to be our prayer as well as his. Have we learned that secret of abiding peace? Where is it found? In unreserved acceptance of God's will.

Why should we be afraid to accept his will for our lives?

His will is always right, and always best, and safe.

To go against his will is certain disaster for ourselves.

Van Dyke voiced:

My soul was weary and my pride  
was wounded deep, to Heaven I cried,  
'God give me peace or I must die' --  
The dumb stars glittered no reply.

Broken at last, I bowed my head,  
Forgetting all myself and said,  
'Whatever comes, God's will be done'  
And in that moment peace was won.



5. One Thing Of Which Jesus Was Impatient

He was impatient of evil, of unrighteousness, of sin. "To this end was the Son of God manifested that he might destroy the works of the Devil."

Read what he said to the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

No one should be patient when evil is to be checked and wrong righted.

Every man ought to be a soldier. Where would religion have been if there had been no John Knox in Scotland? Germany, if no Martin Luther? World Missions if no William Carey?

Both in church and state we must ever be aggressively impatient against wrong ideals throughout the social order.

Morning, noon, and night - our prayer should be "The Lord direct our hearts into the patience of Christ."

Jesus, "In your patience ye shall win souls."

Life is a constant battle.

Temptations confront us.

Temptations came to Jesus in the wilderness.



It is never right to do wrong. Some say, "The end justifies the means."

The one law of conduct -- "What is right."

Patience is needed every hour - day - in the home. Everyone should live at the highest and best in home life. To do so, a large measure of patience is necessary. Parents need this grace, as they deal with growing children. The children need it every hour, so they fall short in their duties towards their parents. Likewise patience is important between husband and wife. Sharp words exchanged, unhappy temper lead to separate ways. Sad, man leaves in a huff and his lifeless body brought back in the evening. How different with patience, will make music forever.

#### 6. Contact With All Humanity

Not all persons are reasonable and congenial. Some are exacting and unreasonable.

Paul prayed to be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men.

A proper use of patience will help us understand and not misjudge our fellow humanity.

If we knew all the background in other people's lives, our judgement of them would be different.

Sam Jones was speaking one time even as I speak to you this hour.

He told of traveling through the desert country on a sultry, summer day, the train windows could not be kept up because of the blinding dust. Nor could they be



kept down because of the oppressive heat. The days travel was tiring for all the passengers. When nightfall came, the desert had been crossed and a sleeping car was added to the train. The tired passengers hastened to find rest and sleep after this unusually trying day. At one end of the Pullman car, a man was seen with a tiny baby in his arms, which he was vainly trying to quiet. The more he strove to quiet the fretting child, the louder became its cries. Tired men turned uneasily in their berths. Presently, a big brawny fellow impatiently called to the man who was vainly trying to quiet the crying child.

"Why don't you take that baby to its mother?" There was a moment of silence and then came back the reply.

"The baby's mother is in her casket in the baggage car ahead!"

Again there was an awful silence for a moment, and then the big man who asked the cruel question, was out of his berth, dressed himself rapidly, and hastened to the man with the motherless child, to make his worthiest apology for his thoughtless question.

The father of the child was entreated to get some sleep, while the thoughtless questioner gave himself for hours to the task of caring for the little child.

How easy to misunderstand -- to misjudge. More and more let us magnify patience.

7. Let Us Use Patience With God.

I say this reverently and humbly.

His providential dealings with us are such as must often try our hearts to the depths.



Sometimes our most cherished plans are broken into shreds.

Sometimes we are turned away from things we have set our hearts upon.

Paul -- wanted to go into Bithynia but the Divine Spirit would not suffer him to do so. Instead Paul was directed to Europe and because he went to Europe, blessings have come to us today.

God's plan for Paul's life was far larger and better than Paul's plan for himself!

God's plan is always best for us, whatever and wherever it may lead.

Always and forever we are to say with Job:

"Let come on me what will, though he slay me, yet will I trust him."

The Gospel is the friend of patience. "Love never faileth."

What makes a mother patient with her duties in the home. . It is love.

What enabled Jacob to toil seven endless years and then another seven years?  
Love for Rachel.

What is the heart of the Gospel? "The life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

The Gospel holds up to us hope -- let Jerusalem come to your mind - there they had



the noble temple, that would thrill the Hebrew heart.

"Let not your heart be troubled - in my father's house are many mansions - I go to prepare a place for you - I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also."

James Whitcomb Riley voiced our undying hope:

There! little girl; don't cry!

They have broken your doll, I know,  
And your tea-set blue, and your playhouse too,

Are things of the long ago;

But childish troubles will soon pass by --

There! little girl, don't cry!

There! little girl; don't cry!

They have broken your slate, I know;  
And the wild, glad ways of your schoolgirl days,

Are things of the long ago;

But life and love will soon come by, -

There! little girl; don't cry!

There! little girl; don't cry!

They have broken your heart, I know;  
And the rainbow gleams of your youthful dreams,

Are things of the long ago;

But Heaven holds all of which you sigh, -

There! little girl; don't cry!"



That one sentence: But Heaven holds all for which you sigh, forecasts the whole vast story of the glorious life and land beyond, for the true friends and followers of Christ.

"We'll gather broken threads again,  
And finish what we here began;  
Heaven will life's mysteries explain --  
And then, ah, then, we'll understand."

What then is the way of wisdom for us all? We have to take into account two worlds -- "Godliness is profitable unto all things having the promise of the life which now is and of that which is to come."

Proverb in Ireland: The tallest tree in Heaven is (patience.)

"Lord I would clasp Thy hand in mine,  
Nor ever murmur, nor repine,  
Content, whatever lot I see,  
Since 'tis my God who leadeth me."