

COURAGE 10: COURAGE TO ENDURE

2019-07-28

Opening passage: **PHILIPPIANS 3:1-21**

- Recap: last week we discussed having the courage to die to self and to lay down our lives, figuratively and also literally if necessary, in order to tell others the good news about Jesus.
- This week, we'll discuss the rewards of enduring hardships as Christians
- I'm told there's a trend in the world today where millennials (those born between 1981-1996) are experiencing difficulty in the work place, because of them being accustomed to being rewarded, for not having achieved anything significant.
- Millennials are used to receiving participant's medals or trophies, for mere participation in an event, while not even achieving significant results.
- Therefore, there's an expectancy to be rewarded at work, for simply pitching up, while not having done any hard work at all.
- The Christian's life however, is one that requires very hard work, for a lifetime of selfless sacrificial service to others
- Our vision is: **"Bringing the unchurched into the family of God, to advance His Kingdom"**
- Our mission will require us to endure hardships along this amazing journey

2 TIMOTHY 2:3(NLTSE) Endure suffering (**NKJV**: endure hardship) along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus

2 TIMOTHY 3:12(NLTSE) Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

- All of heaven's power can work through us, if we let it:

COLOSSIANS 1:29(NLTSE) That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.

- If we're longing for the resurrecting power of Christ to work in and through us, we have to partake of His suffering also:

PHILIPPIANS 3:10-11(NLTSE) "I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised Him from the dead. I want to suffer with Him, sharing in His death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!"

- To some, death seems to be the biggest challenge to overcome. The apostle Paul wanted to experience victory over this seemingly insurmountable obstacle called death and live in the complete victory there is in Christ Jesus.

HEBREWS 10:35-36(NLTSE) "So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! **Patient endurance** is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that He has promised."

- The writer in Hebrews, in the two verses above, teaches the need for endurance, before going on to describe what's known to some as the "heroes of faith", as seen in Hebrews chapter 11. Here we see how some received answers to prayers and others did not but they all experienced God's perfect plan in the end.
- A life filled with difficulties from living for and living like Jesus, will always bear more rewards, than a life of luxury without Jesus.

REVELATION 12:10-12(NLTSE) “Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, “It has come at last— salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth—the one who accuses them before our God day and night. And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And **they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die**. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens! And you who live in the heavens, rejoice! But terror will come on the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you in great anger, knowing that he has little time.”

- The devil is desperately trying to discourage God’s family from enduring till the end, but in Christ we’re victorious:

ROMANS 8:37(NLTSE) No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us

(NKJV) Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us

1JOHN 4:4(NLTSE) But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Why do most people shy away from difficulties? What does this reveal about our character?
2. In what ways, does a Christ follower, experience the same sufferings as Jesus did and how does this affect our testimony?
3. Discuss the struggles you’re facing because of your faith and pray for each other in this regard