

Gain The Most From Your Next Sermon

by Wayne Goff

continued from page 354502

questions of Jesus in private or asked among themselves questions about what Jesus or others had said.

Keep It Fresh!

Like it or not, we ought to admit that as listeners, we have a tendency to get enthused about a good idea, or a new way of implementing God's Word in our lives, only to let the enthusiasm of the moment disappear and our resolve to do better evaporate with it! So to help maintain this momentum:

- ✓ **Implement at least one new idea right away, and set goals for further action immediately.**
- ✓ **Tell others what you plan to do. That helps you keep pressure on yourself to do better.**
- ✓ **Keep notes on sermons and classes in an organized notebook so that you can highlight these life-changing ideas. Then habitually return to your notebook and review what you have written down and determined to do.**

You may or may not like these ideas. But do what it takes to keep you focused on the sermon and/or Bible Class lesson because that is how you learn and God wants you to learn! By the way, we have a number of listeners who practice these kinds of things. If you ask them, they can show you a notebook full of sermon notes!

So whatever you do, do not *just listen!* Being a **passive listener** leads to living the life of a **passive Christian**. And *passive Christian* is a nice way of saying **DEAD CHRISTIAN, James 2:14-17**). Do not be that way, beloved!

A Little Patience?

by Wayne Goff

"But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." **James 1:4.**

This past week of illness has been a trying time for me and Emily. *Patiently waiting* until one starts to feel better gets old quickly for those of us who stay busy all of the time! It is draining mentally because your mind is saying "Go! Go! Go!" while your body is saying "Stop! Slow down! Rest!" We certainly have been spoiled in America with all the doctors, nurses, hospitals, and medicines that we take for granted. The coronavirus has made us reconsider the world in which we live. So, let patience have its perfect work. If you can do that, then you **ARE** *"perfect and complete, lacking nothing."*

"Patience" (hupomonē) is a compound Greek word: **hupō** (under or beneath) + **monē** (to stay in a given place, state, or relation). Thus, *figuratively* it is saying to "bear up under or underneath the situation in which you find yourself." In James 1, we are being encouraged to endure well under the various trials that test our faith.

In Luke 21, Jesus tells His disciples to patiently endure the terrible time leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. He said, *"By your patience possess your souls"* (**verse 19**). If they were to get weary in doing well, then they could lose their souls! Brethren, I feel with the current state of affairs in America, this is once again a truth we need to embrace. Don't get tired and weary of doing what is right. Jesus suffered for us. We must suffer for Him, and sooner than you think it will all be over!

Romans 2:7 says that God gives *"eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality."* Does that describe you and me?

So have "a little patience." Actually, have a **LOT** of patience! A little patience might not work. Read also

Romans 5:3-4, Romans 8:25, Romans 15:4-5 and Colossians 1:11.

354503