

The Patience Needed To Makes The Church Run Well

Galatians 5:22-23

Introduction

- A. The American prayer: “Lord give me patience – right now.”
- B. The Christian’s life is to be one of patience/long-suffering.
 - 1. Patience endures to mission is accomplished.
 - 2. Long-suffering delays punishment or judgment.
 - 3. It does not mean indifference and weakness.
- C. Paul points to three results patience can bring to Christians and the church.

Discussion:

I. It Can Save the Church from Strife (5:13-16)

- A. It can keep it from being eaten up by strife (vv. 15-16)
 - 1. Walking in the spirit in 16, opposite of strife in 15.
 - 2. The fruit of the Spirit includes longsuffering (v. 22)
- B. It can keep the unity of the Spirit (Eph. 4:1-3).
 - 1. Not just any unity.
 - 2. But, the unity established by the Spirit (Eph. 2:16-18).
- C. It can cause us to accept each’s personal peculiarities.
- D. It can cause us to overlook each other’s non-sinful faults.
- E. It can cause us to forgive penitent sinners.

II. It Can Save Lost Brethren (6:1-5)

- A. By patient teaching/preaching (2 Tim. 2:24-26; 2 Tim. 4:1-5)
 - 1. Super salesmanship tactics may be quicker – teaching is more lasting.
 - 2. Playing the emotions may move people to tears or jubilation – teaching moves to conversion.
 - 3. Intimidation, coercion, and emotionalism may move faster – teaching takes more time.
- B. By patient warning and discipline (1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6)

III. It Can Save Christians from Disaster (6:7-9)

- A. If we remember that God’s harvest law will stand (vv.7, 8)
 - 1. If we sow to the Spirit nothing can prevent our receiving eternal life.
 - 2. If we sow to the flesh nothing can prevent our receiving corruption.
- B. If we remember God’s harvest is not immediate (v. 9; Not in October)
 - 1. Must be willing to wait for the our full reward (Mk. 10:20,30; Rom. 8:18; 1 Cor. 4:17)
 - 2. Must wait for God’s plan to work – rather than circumventing it with our own.
 - 3. Must remember that our present condition is not God’s last word.

Conclusion:

- A. God will not be mocked.
- B. We will reap what we sow.
- C. But, we will reap it in due time – so be patient.
 - 1. In dealing with others.
 - 2. In our expectation of reward and results.