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In Tribulation Times, You Need to Be Patient, Persevering, and Preaching



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #283 ~

It won't be long before Jesus Christ, the Son of God, comes back to rapture the church, judge the world, and begin His 1000-year reign on earth. But these days and years leading up to Christ's return are becoming increasingly difficult and dangerous. Thankfully, our loving Father gives us all the grace we need. Not only that, but He told us what will be taking place, and how we are to live for Him during these turbulent times. Today, I'm focusing on how we are to live, specifically that we are to be patient, persevering, and preaching.

James 5:7-9 – *"Be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and the late rains. You too be patient, strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near."* Christ's 1st coming took place about 2000 years ago, and that we're now living in the end-times means His 2nd coming is very, very near (Heb. 10:37). And God wants you to be preaching and patient until the coming of His Son.

What does it mean to be patient? A patient person has a long temper, he is willing to suffer for a long time. This word patience usually has to do with people, not events or circumstances. You are wronged by someone, you are discriminated against, you are taken advantage of, or you are being persecuted, and you don't get angry, you don't retaliate, but instead you endure. Being patient with unsaved and unrighteous people is a godly and loving response. *"Love is patient."* 1 Cor. 13:4

Why should you be patient? Because God is still saving people, and He wants you to be patient until that last soul is saved, until Christ comes back to rapture the church. Being from Iowa, I understand what James says about farmers being patient until the harvest. Did you know that corn is planted in April but it's not harvested until October, six months later? Like farmers, we must patiently wait until it's just the right time to reap the harvest, when Christ returns to rapture the church.

A key to being patient is to be spiritually strong. In the tribulation days of the end-times, there will be opposition, hardships, and persecution like you've never seen before. You will need God's strength to not only endure, to persevere, but to encourage the saints, to be sharing the gospel, to keep going for Jesus until you see Him coming in the clouds. *"… encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near."* Heb. 10:25

Then there's the example of the prophets *"who spoke in the name of the Lord"*, who suffered and patiently persevered. God gives us His

promise – *"We count those blessed who endured. You have… seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful"* (James 5:10-11). God is compassionate and merciful towards you as you suffer for Him in the last years of this evil age, and then in the ages to come, He will give you great glory and blessings. 2 Cor. 4:17

2 Peter 3:9 – "*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient towards you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance"* (2 Pet. 3:9). Like James 5:5-7, this is also in the context of Christ's coming. In the end-times, unbelievers will mock us and sneer at us – *"Where is the promise of His coming?"* In view of their unbelief, God wants you to know two things: 1) The flood destroyed the world in the days of Noah and, so too, the world will be judged and destroyed in the day of Christ. 2) God is patient and delays His justice, for He knows many people will repent of their sins and turn to Christ for forgiveness in the final years leading up to His coming.

Before Christ comes to judge the world, He will be rescuing the lost. So until He returns, be patient like God is patient, pray for unbelievers, and share the gospel with them in hopes that some will be saved from their sins. *"What sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God?"* 2 Peter 3:11-12

Matthew 24:9-14 – *"… You will be hated by all nations… many will fall away and betray one another… Many false prophets will arise… lawlessness is increased… the one who endures to the end will be saved… This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world."* Jesus summarizes what will be taking place during these super-trying, great-tribulation days. So-called believers will defect, evil will be running rampant, and Christians will be greatly hated, betrayed, and killed for their faith in Christ. How are you to respond to all this? You are to endure, to persevere, to keep preaching the gospel. And *"… then the end will come,"* at which time those Christians still alive on earth will be

raptured.

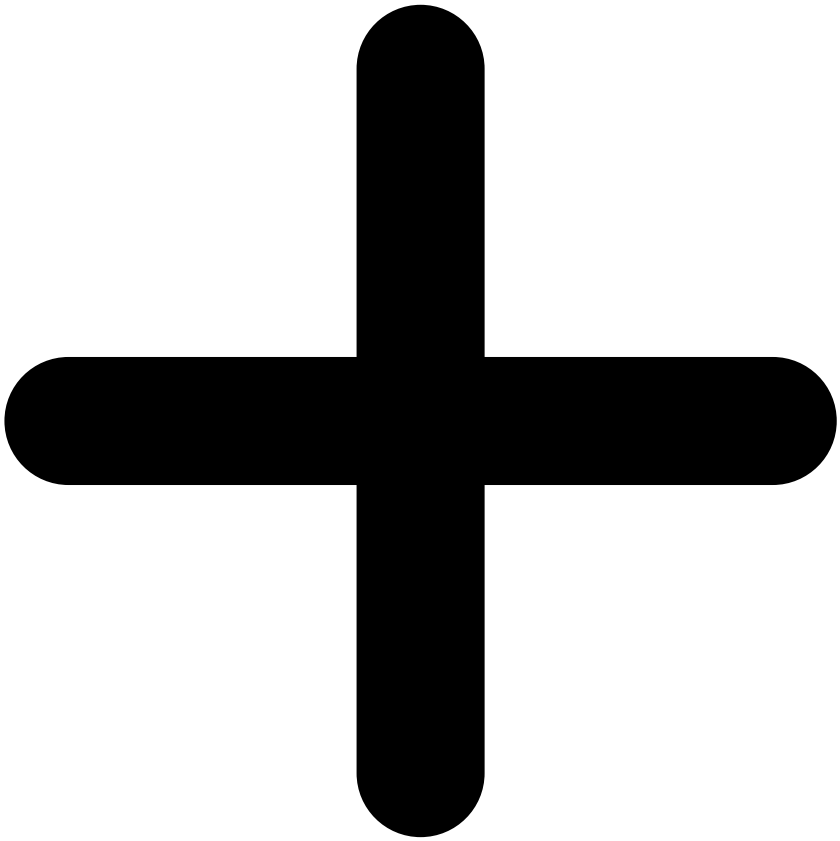
Luke 21:12-19 – *"They will lay their hands on you, and persecute you… It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony… I will give you utterance and wisdom… you will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death… By your endurance you will gain your lives."* This too is in the context of the end-times. And we learn the same things as the previous passages, that you will be persecuted, that you are to share the gospel, and that you are to endure, to patiently persevere until you are with Jesus, whether that's by martyrdom or rapture.

The message in these four end-times' passages is purposely repeated, and for good reason. Because these three points, patience, perseverance, and preaching, are keys to successfully living for the Lord. But it's not just when times get really tough – this lesson is relevant today. *"Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near."* Rom. 13:11-12

We have been witnessing the rapid spiritual decline of the world these past few years. I know I've been surprised by how fast this world is going dark, is going down. There is no doubt that the day is near. Most of you can see that Christians are increasingly being hated and would say that full scale persecution is coming soon. Yes, many of us will be treading the valley of the shadow of death before we see the Lord (Ps. 23:4). And what does God tell us? Now is the time to preach the gospel, to be patient, and to persevere, all the way until the coming of Christ. *"Go make disciples of all the nations… lo, I am with you always, even to the end of this age."* Matt. 28:19-20

P.S. I have shared on three things that God wants us to be doing during these tribulation times, but God has told us much more. Here is a post

and an article that summarizes what God wants us to do – *“How Then Should We Live in the End-Times?”*, and *“What Does God Want Me to Do in the End-Times?”*



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