

## “Endurance and the Christian”

Acts 24:22-27

### I. Why is Endurance *not* Desirable?

### II. How did Paul learn to Endure?

Philippians 4:12-13?

#### A) General Overview of Paul’s Life

Acts 9:15-16; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28

#### B) In our Passage [Let’s look at 3 quick ways Paul learned to endure in our passage]

1) Sharing the Gospel but getting no results:

Isaiah 55:10-11

2) Being at the whim of others:

3) Being wronged by another

### III. Why is Endurance so Important?

#### A) Gets our Attention ... *which gives us hope*

2 Corinthians 12:7-9; Romans 5:3-5

#### B) Gets the World’s Attention

2 Corinthians 4:7-9

#### C) Gets God’s Purposes Accomplished

### IV. How do we Endure?

#### A) Through God’s Power

2 Corinthians 4:7; Jude 1:24-25

#### B) Focusing On the “Last Day”

2 Timothy 4:7-8; 1 Corinthians 9:25-27

#### C) Remember God’s Promise

Acts 23:11; 1 Corinthians 10:13

#### D) Train for God’s Reward

Hebrews 11:6

**Quote:** “*But it was the difficulty, the pain, the frequent failure, that made the 200 meter jaunt down Boylston Street all the more meaningful and cherished. If the pursuit had been easy, there wouldn’t have been half the joy in finishing the race.*” Gary Thomas

**Scripture:** *Romans 15:5-6* May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Acts 24:22-27** *Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. "When Lysias the commander comes," he said, "I will decide your case." <sup>23</sup> He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs. <sup>24</sup> Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jewess. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you." <sup>26</sup> At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him. <sup>27</sup> When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison.*

**Philippians 4:12-13** *I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

**Acts 9:15-16** *But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup> I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."*

**2 Corinthians 11:23-28** *Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. <sup>24</sup> Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, <sup>26</sup> I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. <sup>27</sup> I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. <sup>28</sup> Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.*

**Isaiah 55:10-11** *"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

**John 19:11** *Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above."*

*"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." CS Lewis*

**2 Corinthians 12:7-9** *So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*

**Romans 5:3-5** *More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame.*

**2 Corinthians 4:7-9** *But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>8</sup> We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.*

**2 Corinthians 4:7** *But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.*

**Jude 1:24-25** *Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, <sup>25</sup> to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.*

**2 Timothy 4:7-8** *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-- and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.*

**1 Corinthians 9:25-27** *Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. <sup>27</sup> No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

**Acts 23:11** *The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."*

**1 Corinthians 10:13** *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

**Hebrews 6:10-12** *God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. <sup>11</sup> We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. <sup>12</sup> We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.*