

# Keys to Endurance

Roger Kendall—August 23, 2014

All of us have been following world events as we see things happening around the world. As we see over the past few months, there's increasing uncertainty, there's more adversity and crises in the world than we have seen in the past. Maybe it's an illusion, maybe we've forgotten the things of the past, but the we might ask: Is prophecy increasing or speeding up? We've heard that term.

The point is that prophecy is not speeding up, it's right on time and according to God's timetable. Although we see that events truly do show that we're in the end-time, how much time do we have left? *Five years, ten years, we do not know!* But we know that the world is building toward a crises of great proportion, talking about the coming of the antichrist and the coming of the new world order; for us it's a time of tribulation on the world.

Paul warned us in 2-Tim. 3 that in the end-time 'perilous times' would come. If we see today what is happening, as the world pursues its own selfish desires and carnal desires, we see warfare particularly in many, many places. The world is growing in darkness and evil, and I think we all can sense that. We are moving forward, it's progressive, and we're seeing it as we move toward it.

But indeed, it's also a time of anxiety for many, many people; fearful of what's coming and events surrounding potential economical disaster in this country with the falling of the dollar, and perhaps the crash of the dollar. We go to some of the alternative media out there and they're predicting: How much longer can the dollar hold up? With the crash of the dollar will come economic difficulties.

This has been going on for a while. It's really kind of ebbing and flowing. What about disease epidemics. News of Ebola in Africa and fears of it spreading to Europe and America because of modern travel. We see escalating warfare in the Middle East, the rise ISIS with efforts to disrupt, destroy, kill and murder those of non-Islamic faith. We see potential terrorist activity. We can do down the list and it's pretty fearful.

We've heard that there's a potential of taking out the electric grid in this country by launching EMP (electro-magnetic pulse) attack. Food and water shortages, droughts and weather upset.

In the word of prophecy we do know that difficult days are coming, and we will see the collapse of this society as we know it today. It is coming!

- Where do we put our faith?

- Where do we put our trust?
- Where do we put our confidence?

*When we see the events that we've known for years and years would be coming!*

Fred has pointed out recently that there are events that yet have to be fulfilled. So, we don't need to feel ainxed that the end is coming in the next few weeks or next year. However, things are going to progressively get worse. We have to be ready and realize that it's going in that direction.

Christ basically gave to the disciples what would be the signs of His coming. They had asked, as they looked out over the temple:

Matthew 24:3: "And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, His disciples came to Him alone, saying, 'Tell us, when shall these things be?....'" He told them about the temple being taken down and not one brick upon another.

"...And what *shall be* the sign of Your coming, and of the completion of the age?" Then Jesus answered *and* said to them, 'Be on guard, so that no one deceives you'" (vs 3-4).

We know that deception—religious deception—is going to grow; it's growing even within the Churches of God. We need to be aware that that is a sign of 'religious' deception.

Verse 5: "For many shall come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ'; and they shall deceive many. And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. See *that* you do not let *these things* disturb you" (vs 5-6). A survey shows that there are probably 40 different wars going on in the world today in different parts of the world: Africa, Asia, South America, etc.; there are many conflicts taking place.

"...For it is necessary *that* all *these* things take place, but the end is not yet" (v 6). Christ pointed out that these events are going to be growing. There is going to be intensity, but thing ebb and flow.

If you look at the events surrounding WWI back in 1918, not only did they go through an incredible war—one that killed over 20-million people—but then they were hit with the Spanish Flu—about 40-million in the world died. Things always seem to look bad, and worse, but what do we need to be doing in terms of these times in which we're living?

Verse 7: "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there

shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in *different* places.” This sounds like we’re reading right out today’s newspapers. You look at the sense of drought, increasing earthquake activity. You can look and see that events in the world are becoming more in turmoil and in crisis.

Verse 8: “Now, all these *things are* the beginning of sorrows.” Christ is saying that this is like a woman going into pangs before she gives birth. In other words there’s a crescendo of building of events and circumstances that is going to lead to what we know as the new world order or the coming of the antichrist.

Verse 9: “Then shall they deliver you up to affliction, and shall kill you; and you shall be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.” Religious persecution is increasing, Christians around the world are being attacked particularly by the Muslims. Here in the United States we see more and more persecution of those who believe in the Bible, those who trust in God and those who consider themselves to be Christians. We see this is building and this is something that seems to be occurring.

Verse 10: “And then shall many be led into sin, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another; and many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many; and because lawlessness... [the breaking of God’s commandments, the growing of sin] ...shall be multiplied, the love of many shall grow cold. **But the one who endures to the end, that one shall be saved**” (vs 10-13).

That’s the verse that we want to focus on. Specifically, Christ is saying that he who endures to the end, and endurance has to do with faithfulness. We need to be faithful as we continue on our journey toward the Kingdom of God.

I want to focus in on another aspect of endurance. One of the key to endure to the end is that we have **hope, trust** and **confidence** in God:

- in His Word
- in His promises
- in the very things that He has committed to us

As we enter into this time-period, Christ and God the Father do not want us to be running around being anxious, terrorized and just getting into a fearful state; but to recognize that we can have peace of mind when the rest of the world is losing theirs.

Let’s turn to some Scriptures where even Christ encouraged His disciples on the night that He was betrayed, He also gives encouragement to us here at the end-time as we look at world events.

John 14 is the very words that Christ spoke to His disciples on the night that He was betrayed and later to be crucified the next day.

John 14:27: “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give *it* to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it fear.” This is God’s encouragement to us today. Do not fearful, do not be troubled to the point that you are nervous and anxious about your physical state or the future of your condition.

John 16:32: “Listen, the time is coming, and has already come, that you shall be scattered each to his own, and you shall leave Me alone; and *yet*, I am not alone because the Father is with Me.”

I want to help you focus on this Scripture. This is applying to the fact that Christ was seized. Of course, the disciples scattered in fear and anxiety because of what was happening. As we see events happening around us and as things intensify, we need to always recognize that we are never alone.

- God is with us
- God is for us
- God is going to protect and provide for us

That is His Word! That is what He has promised to do! We are in covenant with God, and because we’re in covenant with God, Satan is our enemy and Satan hates us. The world hates us, but what Christ is telling us here is that we do need to be fearful and do not need to be afraid.

Verse 33: “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation. But be courageous! I have overcome the world.”

Brethren, Christ is in each and every one of us, and this applies to us today. We need to keep on the walk, continue in faith and strength believing the Word of God. Believe God and really recognize that as we walk by faith, and not by sight, and believe God.

As we ***stand in grace***, in right standing with God, God looks upon us as being Holy and righteous because of Christ in us. We stand in grace, not in the law. ***Believing in hope***, the encouragement and strength that comes from the Word of God. ***Live in love!***

These are things that we’ve heard before, about ***walking by faith, believing in hope and living in love!*** Also, we need to stay close to God in study and prayer. Staying close to God is critical so that we do not lose the faith, the hope, the trust that we have. If you don’t have that daily contact, how many days will it take, by watching the world news, that we would become anxious and turmoil in our own mind. That daily prayer and study is so very, very important.

Then ***trust in God’s promises***. We’re going to go through some of those promises today. We’re

going to look at some of the very words that God gives us so we can be encouraged and look to the future and understand that God is with us. If God is with us and for us, who can be against us?

God the Father and Jesus Christ will bring us through any trial, difficulty or hardship that we shall face. Let's first look at what it means to *endure*, what it means to have *endurance*. The word *endurance* is associated with survival, of having stamina, being able to keep up the struggle in the face of almost 'unthoughtof' difficulty, trials and even suffering. The word *endure* comes from the Greek 'hupomeno' (Matt. 24:13). It can be translated in different ways with different nuances of this word means *to bear under trials*. As we endure we must:

- *bear under trials, to suffer*

This actually implies suffering. Not that everything is going well, but that we are going to suffer elements upon us.

- *to have fortitude*—keep on keeping on
- *to remain steadfast*—that you are rock-solid

We stand on the Rock, that is Christ. We have reason to know and understand that we can remain steadfast in Christ.

- *to persevere*—where there's a will there's a way

No matter what comes up, you basically endure by finding a way through the struggle. For us it's prayer and study. We take it to God.

- *to exhibit patience*—wait on God; have forbearance

At times it seems that we go through times of struggle that we ask: Where's God? I'm battling all of these things. But things are going to be when society begins to collapse, that we're going to have grab hold of endurance and all these elements even at greater levels.

As things go forward, we need to tenaciously hold on to the goal—the Kingdom of God, our destiny—without thought of giving up or falling away. We need to follow God's Spirit, trust in God and do His will.

The opposite of endurance is discouragement, fear and anxiety to the point where you *lose hope*, you give up the fight and just give in to the circumstances that are happening that would come upon us. That is something that we do need to do. We need to not just hold on but recognize that the Word of God gives us a great deal of encouragement and shows us that we can trust in God's Word to take us through the trials that we

may face. There are a number of examples in Scripture that talks about things that we need to endure:

2-Timothy 2:3: "You, therefore, **endure hardship** as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." Maybe we don't have everything in line: maybe there's a shortage of food, maybe there are elements that we have to deal with, struggles that we have to go through. It could be lost of a job, personal struggles we have with sin, any number of things.

2-Thessalonians 1:4: "So that we ourselves are boasting about you in the Churches of God because of your **endurance and faith in all your persecutions, and in the tribulations** that you are bearing." That's from the world. The world hates us, brethren. God has hidden us. We're living in a society now where we have it pretty good compared to what is going on in the rest of the world, because we're hidden from the evil elements of the world; God is protecting us and keeping us safe.

1-Peter 2:19: "Because this *is* acceptable: if, for *the* sake of conscience toward God, **anyone endures sorrows, suffering** unjustly. For what commendation *is there* if, disobeying and being beaten, **you endure it?** But **if while doing good you endure suffering, this is acceptable with God;** for to this you were called because **Christ also suffered for us**, leaving us an example, that you should follow in His footsteps" (vs 19-21).

James 1:12 "Blessed *is the man who endures trials* because, after he has been proved, he shall receive a crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." Trials can be packaged in different ways:

- sickness
- loss of a loved one
- major struggles with pain in some kind of condition that we have

We understand what these are in terms of hardship, but the thing is, we haven't seen anything, yet. I don't say that to give you ainxed, but we have it very good right now, but this country, sooner or later, is going to implode and things are going to go badly for this country. We need to just recognize that, and as we see these things happening, we need to hold onto God. We need to have faith, trust and confidence that God will take us through every trial and difficulty that we have.

1-Corinthians 13:7: "**Love** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, **endures all things.**" This is the 'agape' love; this is God's love *in us!* God gives us His love, and if we feel that love and know that the love of God is upon us, and we know that He is committed to bringing us into His Family,

we should not fear and have anxiety or concern, because God is for us.

Just as a marathon runner goes through extreme pain and struggle as he prepares to run 26.3 miles—with training, special diets, exercise—with the hope of completing the race and maybe possibly even win the race. A marathon runner has hope and desire to do that.

In our case, our hope and desire is that we can reach the Kingdom of God, that we can complete our journey, our race, our walk. That's our hope and desire. As we continue our struggle with the world and with all that is going on. Paul talks about endurance and the fact that we can have faith and trust in Jesus Christ:

Hebrews 12:1: "Therefore, *since* we are surrounded by such a great throng of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily entraps *us*; and let us run the race set before us **with endurance**, having *our minds* fixed on Jesus, the Beginner and Finisher of *our* faith; Who for the joy that lay ahead of Him endured *the* cross, *although* He despised *the* shame, and has sat down at *the* right hand of the throne of God" (vs 1-2).

Christ endured the cross; He despised the shame for all that He suffered for the very sake that He knew that His life was going to pay for the sins of the world. He was going to bring redemption to all of in the Church and to the whole world, to those who would accept Him as their personal Savior.

Verse 3: "Now meditate deeply on Him Who endured such great hostility of sinners against Himself so that you do not become weary and faint in your minds." Key Scripture as we focus on Christ and look to the promises that He has given to us. With Christ in us we do not have to faint and become discouraged and troubled by events that are happening in the world.

Verse 4: "You have not yet resisted to the point of *losing* blood in your struggle against sin." We're living in a world that is not God's world; this is Satan's world. Also, we're in our battle—spiritual warfare—against Satan, the elements of the world and even with the sin within, our carnal nature. This struggle is going on, and this struggle can lead us to be discouraging. We need to continue to endure that battle, as well.

We've got all aspects of enduring here. Not only with things going on in the world, but things going on in our own personal life.

Our Christian battle begins with faith, the foundation upon which we have a relationship with God and Jesus Christ. ***Our faith, trust, belief in God!*** Do we believe God? *or* Do we not believe God? If we do not believe God then our faith is weak. We need to

trust and believe in God's Word! From that trust and experience we develop **hope**, meaning that *we are encouraged by God's Word and our experiences because God is for us and with us carrying us through all the experiences that we go through!*

Through that experience that we have done now with God the Father and Christ: He is with us, He has supported us, He has loved us so we can have **hope!** We don't need to fall away or think it is going to change in the future. Rom. 5 just encapsulates this very point. Through times of trial, tribulation and difficulty we can have trust and confidence in God.

Romans 5:1: "Therefore, having been justified by faith... [we stand in grace before God through faith] ...**we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ." Christ *in us* should give us **peace!**

Verse 2: "Through Whom we also have access **by faith** into this grace in which we stand, and we ourselves boast **in the hope** of the glory of God." Here we see the elements of *faith and hope*.

Verse 3: "And not only *this*, but we also **boast in tribulations...**" The Apostle James says that we should rejoice in our trials; not that we rejoice when it comes upon us, but we realize that with the trial we see God's deliverance and we can build greater faith. It's a building process. We become seasoned soldiers for Jesus Christ. We not only are in training, but by doing and actively participating in a relationship with God the Father, that we can build a great deal of confidence.

"...realizing that tribulation brings forth endurance" (v 3). In other words, as something is tested some of that testing increases the potential strength of what we have. If you put force on something it becomes stronger, and that's the same for us. Through tribulation we can endure more because we've seen God working in our lives.

Verse 4: "And endurance *brings forth* character, and character *brings forth* hope. And the hope *of God* never makes us ashamed because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, which has been given to us" (vs 4-5).

God's love is upon us through His Holy Spirit and we can be confident that God's love will carry us through the difficulties that lie ahead.

Let's understand that, as God's people, things are going to increase as far as world prophecy—the events that are coming—but we can also read in Rev. 6, the fifth seal and the coming of the four horsemen, and about the martyrdom of the saints.

Revelation 6:9: "And when He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God, and for the

testimony that they held.” This has been down through time. God’s servants, God’s people, have been killed because of their faith, because of their belief.

Verse 10: “And they cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, Holy and true, do You not judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ And white robes were given to each of them; and they were told that they should rest a short time, yet, until *it* be fulfilled *that* both their fellow servants and their brethren also would be killed, just as they had been” (vs 10-11).

I bring this out because we do know that God is going to spare and take some of the Church to a place of safety; but, brethren, we are told that that number may not be a majority, but perhaps a smaller part. So, we have to recognize that we may have to go through this, if indeed we live in that time. That’s something that we *can* do. God has shown us that we can get through anything, even the facing of death. We can endure even this trial that may come upon the Church:

Revelation 12:10: “And I heard a great voice in heaven say, ‘Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ because the accuser of our brethren has been cast down, who accuses them day and night before our God. But they... [the saints] ...overcame him... [Satan the devil] ...through the blood of the Lamb, and through the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death’” (vs 10-11).

Our destination is the Kingdom of God. Life in this world has its pleasures, good parts, but it’s the struggle and the difficulties. We’re looking for a better world, we’re looking for the return of Jesus Christ. This is going to occur, but yet, brethren, we can rejoice knowing that God is going to be for us.

We can read that no matter what comes upon us God says He will never put upon us nothing more than we can bear and handle; with His help, of course!

1-Corinthians 10:13: “No temptation... [trial, hardship, pain or suffering—whatever] ...has come upon you except what is common to mankind. For **God, Who is faithful**...” In His Word, God has said what He will do for us if we just have faith in Him.

“...will not permit you to be tempted beyond what you are able *to bear*; but with the temptation... [the trial or difficulty] ...He will make a way of escape, so that you may be able to bear *it*” (v 13). This is so important for us to appreciate, that God will be with us even through the most difficult trial that we could ever face.

Philippians 4:4: “Rejoice in *the* Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!” We can rejoice because

- we’re precious in God’s sight
- we’re heading to a better place, the Kingdom of God
- we can have hope and confidence that God is going to get us there

This is something that we need to appreciate. We live in this world, but we’re not a part of this world. We’re not a part of its desires, what it’s trying to accomplish. We’re growing in knowledge and grace and love of Jesus Christ. We desire the kingdom, that’s what we really want more than anything else. This world needs Jesus Christ. This world is such an evil mess that it truly needs the presence of God’s government on the earth.

By keeping our eyes focused on the kingdom, focusing on God’s promises, grabbing hold of Christ, holding fast, *we can have peace of mind!* In other words, I have occasions where you go through and you just get ainxed; we’re flesh, its natural. God wants us to be comforted and recognize that *He will be there* for us.

Verse 6: “Do not be anxious about anything; but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God in everything.” Here is the antidote for anxiety and fear: prayer, study, getting close to God. Here’s the answer.

Verse 7: “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.” This Scripture kind of encapsulates what I’m really trying to bring to you today. This is what we can believe in, trust that God will be there for us.

Matthew 7:7: “Ask, and it shall be given to you. Seek, and you shall find. Knock, and it shall be opened to you.” Faithful prayer and seeking God’s help and guidance is one of the keys to enduring and really being able to make it the end of the time in which we live.

God wants you to look to Him for protection, providence, peace, His presence—for all that He has—on a daily basis. If we’re not close to God in prayer we’re going to be edging more toward the world. That’s why you’ve heard it over and over: **Bible study and prayer!** It’s truly the essence of what’s going to keep us alive spiritually. They’re very important.

Let’s look to some of the promises that God has given to us in His Word. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is one that people have memorized, but this is basically a Psalm that promises both *physical and spiritual* salvation; both elements are there. As we live in this world, in this life, salvation through God and

bringing us through and finally salvation in the Kingdom of God.

Psalm 23:1: “The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want.” We are the sheep of His pasture. Christ is our Shepherd and we shall not be lacking any good thing. For sheep it’s good fodder and water; it’s a place of safety from the enemy. The same applies to us as His sheep.

Verse 2: “He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul...” (vs 2-3). That’s the physical part: He keeps us strong, vibrant, healthy—spiritually as well as physically.

“...He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake” (v 3). Through His Spirit He leads us in the way of keeping the way of righteousness.

Verse 4: “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I will fear no evil**, for You are with me...” If God is with us, why should we fear? Why should we fear with the world can throw at us?

“...Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over” (vs 4-5). Indeed, David is talking about the fact that even though there are enemies all around us, God provides a table for us. He anoints us, heals us, provides for us—our cup runs over!

Verse 6: “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life... [physical life] ...and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever”—*spiritual life in the Kingdom of God!*

You can see both elements in this. This is so we can be encouraged, and we can surely be thankful for God’s promises to us.

Psalm 7:1: “O LORD my God, in You have I taken refuge; save me from all who pursue me and deliver me.”

Psalm 9:9: “The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, for You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You” (vs 9-10).

Psalm 18:1: “I love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my Rock, and my Fortress, and my Deliverer; my God, my Rock in Whom I take refuge; He is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower. I will call on the LORD, Who is worthy to be praised, so shall I be saved from my enemies” (vs 1-3).

Psalm 32:7: “You are my hiding place... [God has hidden us in this society. We are being

protected, hidden] ...You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall encircle me with songs of deliverance. Selah.” *Think and ponder on this deeply!*

Psalm 34:17: “The righteous cry, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of **all** their troubles.... [not few or some] ...The LORD is near to the broken-hearted and saves those who are of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all” (vs 17-19).

Psalm 62:7: “In God is my salvation and my glory, the Rock of my strength; my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah” (vs 7-8).

Psalm 91 is a wonderful psalm because it really encapsulates His protection and Providence when things get really bad. We can read and understand that this is God’s promise to us.

Psalm 91:1: “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall **abide under the shadow of the Almighty**.” This means that we’re close to God, we’re right there, right next to God!

Verse 2: “I will say of the LORD, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in Whom I will trust.’ Surely He will deliver you from the fowler’s trap and from the destroying pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge. His Truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flies by day, nor for the plague that walks in darkness, nor for the destruction laying waste at noonday” (vs 2-6).

I just want to insert that in Africa right now is a great deal of fear about the plague that “...walks in the darkness...” because of Ebola.

Verse 7: “A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand; it shall not come near you.”

Verse 14: “Because he [the saints] has set his love upon Me [God], therefore, I will deliver him; I will set him on high because he has known My name. He... [we as God’s people] ...shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation” (vs 14-16).

These Scriptures just encourage me, and I know that they encourage you and we can recognize that this is what God wants us to focus on during these times. To recognize that we do not have to fear what’s in the world, but continue to have hope in

Him. God cannot lie! God's Word is certain!

Hebrews 6:17: "In this way God, desiring more abundantly to show the heirs of the promise the unchangeable nature of His own purpose, confirmed *it* by an oath." God does not change. He's the 'same yesterday, today and tomorrow.'

Verse 18: "So that by two immutable things, in which *it was impossible for God to lie*, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to lay hold on the hope *that has been* set before *us*; which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both secure and steadfast, and which enters into the *sanctuary* within the veil; where Jesus has entered for us *as* a forerunner, having become a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchisedec" (vs 18-20).

- Jesus Christ is our High Priest!
- He is our Anchor!
- He is our Hope!

We can look to Him, seeking Him in prayer instantaneously day or night.

(go to the next track)

Hebrews 4:15: "For we do not have a high priest who cannot empathize with our weaknesses, but *One Who* was tempted in all things according to *the likeness of our own temptations*; yet, *He was* without sin. Therefore, we should **come with boldness to the throne of grace**... [in prayer, on our knees before God with absolute confidence] ...so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (vs 15-16).

I know that many times in my life I find that after I'm on my knees in prayer you can just feel the weight lifted off like someone is taking a sack of grain off your back. It is that personal, in so many ways. We can have confidence in God that He will complete the work that He has started in us:

Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will complete *it* until *the day* of Jesus Christ."

As we keep our eyes on the goal; as we suffer the consequences of being with Christ, Paul says to look forward to the destination, the conclusion of our journey, as we look to the Kingdom of God.

2-Corinthians 4:14: "Knowing that He Who raised the Lord Jesus *from the dead* shall also raise us through Jesus, and shall present *us* with you." This should be absolute encouragement to us that God will raise us up at the first resurrection.

Verse 15: "For all things *are* for your sakes, so that the abounding grace may cause the thanksgiving of many to overflow unto the glory of

God." We are to praise God daily for His commitment to us, as we commit to Him.

Verse 16: "For this reason, we do not lose heart... [this is part of enduring] ...but if our outward man is being brought to decay, yet, the inward *man* is being renewed day-by-day. For the momentary lightness of our tribulation is working out for us an immeasurably greater *and* everlasting fullness of glory; while we consider not the things *that are* seen, but the things *that are* not seen. For the things *that are* seen *are* temporary; but **the things that are not seen are eternal**" (vs 16-18).

Our focus is on the Kingdom of God, our purpose in life—why we are here—not in necessarily being able to solve the world's problems at this time. We will have opportunity with Christ to do that at an later time.

Romans 8:14: "For as many as are led by *the* Spirit of God, these are *the* sons of God." This talking about you and me. We are the children of God. We have God's Spirit, we are begotten by God and we are His children.

Verse 15: "Now, you have not received a spirit of bondage again unto fear, but you have received *the* Spirit of sonship, whereby we call out, 'Abba, Father.'" That's a personal, close, dear relationship that is built on love.

Verse 16: "The Spirit itself bears witness conjointly with our own spirit, *testifying* that we are *the* children of God. Now, if *we are* children, *we are* also heirs—truly, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer together with Him, so that we may also be glorified together with Him. For I reckon that the sufferings of the present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory that shall be revealed in us" (vs 16-18). Indeed, brethren, we suffer life today, but we look forward to the glory in the future.

Hebrews 13:5 *Do not allow the* love of money to influence your behavior, *but be* satisfied with what you have; for He has said, **'In no way will I ever leave you; no—I will never forsake you in any way.'** That's a promise! That's one of the rock-solid promises that God gives to us.

In conclusion let's go over the points in having ***endurance, hope, trust and confidence*** in God. We are not to fear what man can do to us. What can man do to us? *Man can*:

- persecute us
- take away
  - ✓ our personal goods
  - ✓ our money
  - ✓ our homes
- separate us from our loved ones
- throw us into prison

- take our physical lives

But ***they cannot separate us from the love of God! They cannot separate us from God's presence and our very being!*** God is faithful and we can trust in His Word.

Romans 8:31: "What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? He Who did not spare even His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how shall He not also grant us all things together with Him? Who shall bring an accusation against *the* elect of God? God *is the One* Who justifies. Who *is* the one that condemns? *It is* Christ Who died, but rather, Who is raised again, Who is even *now* at *the* right hand of God, *and* Who is also making intercession for us. What shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?" (vs 31-35).

Verse 36: "Accordingly, it is written, 'For Your sake we are killed all the day long; we are reckoned as sheep for *the* slaughter.' But in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers... [referring to the demonic world] ...nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which *is* in Christ Jesus our Lord" (vs 36-39).

I hope this message and Scriptures will ***strengthen, encourage and inspire us*** to truly have the ***trust, confidence and hope in God!***

#### Scriptural references:

- 1) Matthew 24:3-13
- 2) John 14:27
- 3) John 16:32-33
- 4) 2 Timothy 2:3
- 5) 2 Thessalonians 1:4
- 6) 1 Peter 2:19-21
- 7) James 1:12
- 8) 1 Corinthians 13:7
- 9) Hebrews 12:1-4
- 10) Romans 5:1-5
- 11) Revelation 6:9-11
- 12) Revelation 12:10-11
- 13) 1 Corinthians 10:13
- 14) Philippians 4:4, 6-7
- 15) Matthew 7:7
- 16) Psalm 23:1-6
- 17) Psalm 7:1
- 18) Psalm 9-9-10
- 19) Psalm 18:1-3
- 20) Psalm 32:7
- 21) Psalm 34:17-19

- 22) Psalm 62:7-8
- 23) Psalm 91:1-7, 14-16
- 24) Hebrews 6:17-20
- 25) Hebrews 4:15-16
- 26) Philippians 1:6
- 27) 2 Corinthians 4:14-18
- 28) Romans 8:14-18
- 29) Hebrews 13:5
- 30) Romans 8:31-39

Scripture referenced, not quoted: 2-Timothy 3

RK:bo  
Transcribed: 12-3-14

Copyright 2014—All rights reserved. Except for brief excerpts for review purposes, no part of this publication may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without the written permission of the copyright owner. This includes electronic and mechanical photocopying or recording, as well as the use of information storage and retrieval systems.