

The Grace of God



"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us..." (Titus 2:11-12).

January 20, 2008 (Vol. 7)

The Constant Battle with impatience A.D.

Since patience is a virtue (2 Pet. 1:6), it should be no great surprise that Satan would often challenge us with the temptation to be impatient. Most people have had a lot of practice being impatient. We have grown accustomed to having what we want, when we want it. When that doesn't happen, we frequently become impatient, which leads to other problems.

A child may throw a tantrum if he has to wait his turn or if his parent's won't buy what he wants-right now! This immature attitude may simply be validation of the old saying, "*The acorn doesn't fall far from the tree.*" Many young parents have insisted on having from the get go every advantage their parents had worked many years to obtain. Instead of patiently putting up with a used vehicle until they could afford to buy a brand new car, they go ahead and buy one anyway. Often a second family income is necessary to pay for a luxury, and that demands a second car which might not otherwise be necessary.

The problem with impatience is that it is a chronic condition. Getting what you want becomes a habit that is hard to break. Before "*wants*" are paid for, we convince ourselves that we "*need*" other things, and we need them now!

Impatience in material matters is bad enough, but it's especially destructive when it rears its ugly head in even more important areas of life. If patience has not been developed early in life, young people will likely become impatient in fulfilling their sexual urges, and will convince themselves that they "*deserve*" the pleasures reserved for marriage- especially if they are "*in love.*"

Christians must fight against impatience in dealing with one another. We are commanded to "*be patient with all*" (1 Thess. 5:14), including the unruly,

fainthearted and the weak. In all of our teaching, we must show patience (2 Tim. 2:24).

We may even become somewhat impatient with our own pursuit of righteousness. For that reason we are warned not to "*grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if do not lose heart*" (Gal. 6:9).

God promises great things to "*those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality*" (Rom. 2:7). Even when our righteousness brings trouble to us in the short term, we are reminded to be "*patient in tribulation*" (Rom. 12:12), for as we are reminded in another place, "*be patient until the coming of the Lord...Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand*" (James 5:7-8).

“Effects of No Church Discipline”

Irven Lee

Failure to carry out any command of God is a serious failure. The New Testament emphasizes the duties of the individual, but there are certain responsibilities assigned to groups of Christians (churches) because we are to work together as a family or body under the elders and under Christ, our Chief Shepherd (Rom 16:16; Titus 1:5; 1 Tim 5:17; 1 Pet 5:1-5).

1) No Discipline Causes Men To Be Lost: -- God does not want any to perish because every soul is precious to Him (Matt 16:26; 2 Pet 3:9). If a brother sins, he endangers his own soul. Any Christian near him should seek to convert or restore him to God (James 5:19,20; Gal 6:1). If efforts of this type fail, the important task of rescuing this one from perishing falls upon the church (1 Cor 5). Let every member be aware of the fact that the effort is to save the sinner as well as to protect the reputation of the church (1 Cor 5:4-8). We may admonish the sinner as a brother because we are interested in his spiritual welfare. We want him to be ashamed of his sinful way, so we withdraw from him (2 Thes 3:6, 14,15).

2) No Discipline Allows Leaven's Wickedness To Enter The Lump: -- The church at Corinth was "puffed up" with its own wisdom rather than

depending on the counsel of God concerning the member who was a fornicator. Allowing one couple to live in violation of the law was a way of letting the leaven of wickedness to enter the "lump." It was true then as it is now that "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (1 Cor 5:6-8). If the church closes its eyes to one case, there will likely soon be another and then others.

3) No Discipline Will Keep Men From Enduring Sound Doctrine: -- Timothy was charged to "preach, reprove, rebuke and exhort" in an urgent way, if he would push off the day when they would not endure sound doctrine (2 Tim 4:1-5). The mouths of those who speak unsound doctrine should be stopped, but who will do this, if the people like the perverted pattern? (Titus 1:10-14; 2 Pet 2:1-3). Timothy was urged to be forceful and faithful in his preaching, and the churches were taught to mark, avoid and reject false teachers. They were to purge out the leaven of wickedness and disorder to avoid the evil day when they would not endure sound doctrine (Rom 16:17,18; Acts 20:29-31; Gal 1:6-10).

4) No Discipline Encourages The Worldly: -- If a church looks the other way and refuses to notice when more and more members become ungodly, that church will become a gathering place for the worldly. It will also lose the respect of the community. Its zeal for Christ will vanish, so it will fall into the same condition that had come to Israel when Isaiah and Jeremiah lived. God was displeased with a church that tolerated doctrine and practices that were contrary to His Will (Rev 1:14,15).

REJOICE!!!

We are delighted at **Gerald Brown** and **Cindy Gardner** coming forward last Sunday! Praise God for His patience and mercy! Let us encourage them and strengthen our brother and sister in Christ.

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER & PRAY FOR

Sawyer Sims, Jean Gambrell (back), **Johanna Fletcher, Othena Kinnard** (At home, is having additional tests), **Mag Bumbalough, Mary Cox, Monie Petty, Dave Poteet** (NHC 225), **Marilyn Poteet-Langford, Betty England, Thelma Klein, Joshua Hill** (Ending his seizure meds), **Ed Williams, Michelle Austin, Lydia Poe, Larry Bumbalough, Jake Hale, Joshua & Misty Poteet, Carolyn Williams, Kenley Streeval. Matthew Taylor** (leukemia), **Joyce Simmons Wagner, Lorene Myers** (Rece's Grandmother), **David Price** (David Price's father), **Bill Frazier** (cancer), **Michelle Cunningham** (Lydia's sister), **W.C. Randolph** (Jamie Sims' grandfather), **Emma Featherston** (Adam's grandmother).

OBEY THE GOSPEL!!!

Hear (Rom. 10:17) Believe (Mark 16:16)
Repent (Acts 17:30-31) Confess (Rom. 10:9)
Be Baptized (Acts 2:38) Live Faithfully (Rev. 2:10)

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Radio Program** - Every Sun. 2pm, AM 1050 WSMT
- **Home Bible Study** - Resumes Jan. 12 & 26, 2008
- **Ladies Class** - 2nd & Last Sunday Each Month
- **Business Meeting** - Sun. Jan. 27
- **GM** - Ron Daly, April 7-11, 2008 (Mon-Fri).
- **GM** - Lanny Smith, Oct.12-17, 2008.

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