

INTRODUCTION:

God promises His disciples that the benefits of serving Him will far outweigh its costs. Rom 8:18-19; 2 Co 4:17. But He also makes it clear that He will bring this about in His own way and in His own time. Isa 64:4.

It often happens that we would prefer God to bring this about in a different way and time. Psa 69:1-3.

When this is the case, we must be patient, "long-tempered" with God.

In today's sermon, I want to talk about some things we must do to be patient with God.

DISCUSSION:

To be patient with God we must believe the following.

1. **God loves us.** Isa 30:18. He created us, provides for us, is compassionate towards us, graciously suffered for us, and longs to mercifully bless us.
2. **God has and is working a perfect plan to bring about our ultimate fulfillment.** Ecc 2:24, 26; 3:1-8, 11, 14; Rom 8:28.
3. **Suffering plays a role in God's plan.** It is a ...
 - A. Vital role. Lam 3:27-33, 37-38; Heb 12:11.
 - B. It is a limited role. God does not allow us to suffer more than we can bear. Isa 40:29-31.
4. **God is faithful.** Lam 3:22-23, 25-26; Psa 25:3; James 5:7-11.

To be patient with God we must do the following.

1. **We must forsake our thoughts and ways.**
 - A. Isa 55:7-9; Jer 10:23; Pro 14:12; Psa 62:5-6.
 - B. Thank God for unanswered prayers! 2 Cor 12:7-10.
 - C. I asked God for strength, that I might achieve. I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey. I asked for health, that I might do greater things. I was given infirmity, that I might do better things. I asked for riches, that I might be happy. I was given poverty, that I might be wise. I asked for power that I might have the praise of men. I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God. I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life. I was given life, that I might enjoy all things. I got nothing that I asked for but got everything I had hoped for. Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. I am, among all people, most richly blessed."
 - D. Psa 25:4-5.
2. **We must not be angry with God and complain against Him.** Psa 37:7-9; Jam 1:16-17, 19-21; Job 23:2; Lam 3:39; 1 Th 5:16, 18.
3. **We must trust God and not give up on Him.**
 - A. Pro 20:22.
 - B. We may ask God why, but we must be satisfied with His answer—even when His answer is that He is not going to give us an answer, that we are just going to have to trust Him.
 - C. Psa 25:15-18, 21-22; 40:1-3; Isa 25:6-9.

SONGS: "In His Time." "Teach Me Lord To Wait." "Wait On The Lord."