

Perseverance

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Almost alone in prison, facing the end of life, Paul wrote his last letter to Timothy. Their years as a team had been rich, and this adds depth and emotion to his comments. Paul had some precious final words to pass on to Timothy, and to us.

SUMMARY:

Perseverance can be described as faith stretched out over time. But perseverance must be lived one day at a time. Jesus pointed out that each day has plenty of its own problems (Matt.6:34) The athlete, soldier, and farmer that Paul uses to illustrate perseverance all must wait to see the results of their efforts. Immediate feedback and benefits are nice, but the most important aspects of life require waiting, and waiting requires faith and character. The lessons we learn in life don't reach their full purpose until we have passed them on to someone else.

NOTES:

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Question: When you think of perseverance, who or what comes to mind? Think of someone you know who has shown courage and determination in a difficult situation.

Discussion:

- Why should we patiently endure the troubles we encounter in life?
- Describe how your faith in God helped you persevere through a time of discouragement.
- In what ways can we take a different view on our problems?
- In what ways does your eternal hope help you persevere?
- Can you think of any benefits that come in a time of trial?

APPLICATION:

When trials come and doubts creep into our minds, we wonder whether we will feel the presence and experience God's power. However, God promised to be with us ALWAYS. All we have to do is ask him to lead us through. We can always find strength in Christ and in each other. Paul said *"I can do all things through Him who gives me strength"* **Phil 4:13**

ON YOUR OWN...

Please Read & Meditate Upon The Word

Romans 5:3-4

1 Corinthians 13:7

1 Timothy 4:15-16

Hebrews 10:35-39, 12:1-3

James 1:2-4&12

Revelation 2:2-3

1 Peter 1:6-9