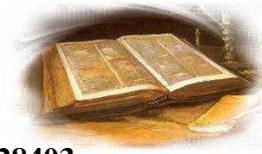


# The Examiner



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## "Lest Ye Be Wearied And Faint In Your Minds" - by Henry A. Kirkland

Often parents wearied by their children on some matter will say, "Let's not talk about it anymore, I am tired of hearing about it." Years ago a young lady said in my presence, "I am tired of hearing about the 'Issues'." This attitude in some says, "We are going to preach the gospel and leave these things alone as we are not bothered with them." I may be wrong, and hope I am, but I sense among some the attitude that they are "Tired of hearing about it." Again, I may be wrong and hope that I am, but it appears that some feel the battle is won. Perhaps this is true in some areas but it is not true in most. Liberalism is not dead, no matter what form, and we are not "winning the battle" as a very prominent brother remarked to me some time ago. The fight for men's souls is never ended. The race in which the Christian is running is not over until death closes over him. Those who would allow themselves to become "tired" are in reality succumbing to the "Devil's Brew." Each day congregations are being absorbed into the fold of Liberalism. It matters not if the Liberalism be in the organization, work, worship, plan of salvation or purity of the lives of

members, it is still to be fought. In **Hebrews 12:1-4** the writer compares the Christian life to a race. Anyone who has participated in a track meet is aware that a contestant must follow the course officially laid out. Likewise for the Christian the race is "set before him." The course is clearly defined by God's Word, illuminated by the examples of such faithful men as Paul, and marked unmistakably by the footprints of the Son of God. Even as a race is a beehive of activity so is the Christian's life. There is no room for indolence, laziness, or indifference. One must be constantly on guard, diligent at all times, ready for conflict and suffering if need be. Progress is hindered by many strong adversaries who take forms not always easy to recognize. We must battle these foes and many difficulties if we would "run the race set before us." If we should live 100 years, what is that compared to eternity? It is a short period of struggle in our race when compared to an eternity of rest and reward for the faithful. As a 9 seconds 100 yard dash is short compared to the glory brought, so is our struggle compared to the glory awaiting those like Paul who "finish the course."

Our text cites two things needing elimination; "every weight" and the "sin which doth so easily beset us." Among the weights one must set aside may be found customs, practices, associations and habits that are not sinful within themselves, yet hinder us in our efforts to overcome the devil. The "besetting sin" is the cloak the devil is waiting to place gently on sagging shoulders. Every man has some weakness in one of the areas of sin the devil uses, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life. Failure to accept and deal with such weakness allows the devil to overcome us.

Two things the Hebrew writer states will help the Christian in the race that is "set before him." One is looking to Jesus as the perfecter of "our faith" and the other is a consideration of him as he withstood the opposition of Satan here on earth.

"For consider him that hath endured such gainsaying of sinners against himself, that ye wax not weary, fainting in your souls." (ASV, **Heb. 12:4**) The King James states it: "Lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." We thus see the danger exists of becoming weary and fainting in our minds or souls. Outward weariness comes from inward weariness. When a man loses his hope and enthusiasm, his heart will then lose its faith. This will be shown by a loss of vigor in his physical or spiritual activities.

One of the greatest lessons taught in God's word is on the danger of becoming weary in our service of God. Most all men have experienced some

form of it at one time or another and they manifested it, with God's evident disapproval for all to see. Faithful Noah became weary, went on a drunk so to speak, and what modern man would not attempt to justify his actions for "after all look what he had been through!" Faithful Abraham tired of trusting God for his safety, and thus told his wife to lie while in Egypt. Faithful Sarah tired of waiting for God's promised offspring, and supplied her handmaid to help God. Faithful Moses, righteously tired of his murmuring brethren, struck the rock instead of speaking to it as God commanded. Because of his weariness, he fainted in his mind, disobeyed God and lost his reward of entering the promised land.

In the New Testament many men likewise became "tired." Many of Jesus' disciples tired of his "hard sayings" and offenses to "the herd," turned back. (**John 6:66**) Peter "tired" of being asked if he was a disciple of Christ so he cursed to the maid to show he was "one of the boys." (**Matt. 26**) Ananias and Sapphira tired of giving, so they lied to the Holy Spirit and lost their lives. (**Acts 5**) Those in Stephen's audience "tired" of having their shortcomings pointed out and they took his life. (**Acts 7**) It appears some in the Corinthian church "tired" of fighting against fornication or adultery so they allowed it to dwell among them "in peace." (**1 Cor. 5**) The Galatians tired of the pure Gospel and thus were ready to accept a little of the "old law" just as the Colossians also "tired" of it and stood in danger of

accepting "...human philosophies." (Col. 2:8) The seven churches of Asia stand as a monument to whole churches becoming tired and sitting down to their own condemnation, unless repented of.

Proof men were "tired" is found in the fact that Jude was, "...constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend for the faith, which was once for all delivered unto the saints." (Jude 3, ASV)

It matters not if men grow weary or faint in their minds due to difficulties of life, apparent lack of progress, or because of some presumed or exaggerated sense of propriety. It is still weariness and faintness in mind and dangerous! Life is not all still waters and green pastures in spite of David's twenty-third Psalm. At times we make very little progress in our eternal fight with Satan. Still we can't test our spiritual condition by the way we "feel about it" Men are still saved by obedience to God's Word and not by their feelings. Many grow weary because of lack of prayer and concentration upon the spiritual. They concentrate upon the materialistic, numbers, building, contribution and such like. Lack of love for the truth is the basic problem.

"Consider him who endured...." (Heb. 12:3) This term "consider" is hard to express in English equivalents according to scholars, but it includes the following: "to consider, take account of, analyze, compare, think on." It is referring to Christ and His suffering as compared to ours. Our lot in life is much less than His. None

would take our life as they did His, though some might desire such, He endured blasphemy, contradictions, slander, ensnaring questions, scourging, derision, and crucifixion. He was betrayed by one, denied by another, and forsaken by all in his hour of trial and tribulation. Yet He endured and left us a pattern and attitude for survival eternally.

My brother or sister, when you become tired of hearing things condemned which divide, corrupt, or mutilate the church, or which hinder those running the race set before them, it is time to "examine thyself, whether thou art in the faith." (2 Cor. 13:5) We need to attack all the forces of Liberalism with the very sword it attempts to use. Let us show by the light of God's Word who is really selfish or benevolent. Let us show by the light of God's Word who is dividing the church of our Lord. Let us never become weary or faint in our mind as we face this task, for "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10), and "In due season we shall reap if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9) - Winston, Oregon \*\*\*  
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**Patience - The Art of Persevering In This Life** - by Forrest D. Moyer- Morro Bay, CA  
As Peter continued to list the characteristics that one must add, he named "patience" as being essential in our lives to keep us from falling and to insure us a part in the "everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior" (2

Pet. 1:5-11). James wrote: "Indeed, we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the purpose of the Lord, that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful" (Jas. 5:11). Therefore, the Holy Spirit teaches us that we must have patience if we would walk in the favor of God. It is, in truth, a part of the fruit of the Spirit.

### What Is Patience?

1. Let us look at the definition. It is from the word hupomone. Thayer defines it: "steadfastness, constancy, endurance; in the N.T. the characteristic of a man who is unswerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings" (Thayer, p. 644). The verb form means "to persevere, to endure, bear bravely and calmly" (Ibid.).

William Barclay says, "Hupomone is one of the noblest of NT words. Normally it is translated 'patience' or 'endurance,' but, as we shall see, there is no single English word which transmits all the fullness of its meaning. . . . It has one very interesting use - it is used of the ability of a plant to live under hard and unfavorable circumstances. . . . It is not the patience which can sit down and bow its head and let things descend upon it and passively endure until the storm is past. . . . It is the spirit which can bear things, not simply with resignation, but with blazing hope; it is . . . the spirit which bears things because it knows that these things are leading to a goal of glory; it is not the patience which grimly waits for the end, but the patience which radiantly hopes for the dawn" (William Barclay, New Testament Words, pp. 143-144).

2. Realizing what is involved in the word helps us to see that patience is greatly needed in our lives. It is needed that we might be complete. James writes: "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance (patience). And let endurance (patience) have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (Jas. 1:2-4). The word trials (peirasmois) can mean either inward temptations to do wrong or outward trials such as suffering or persecution for the name of Jesus. The context here indicates that he is speaking of the outward trials that would try to discourage us from faithful service to the Lord. These are the kind of trials of which Peter spoke in **1 Peter 4:12**: "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal (trial) among you, which comes upon you for your testing." We have not arrived at a state of completeness until we are able to endure these trials that will come. Observe that James is not speaking of sinless perfection but of one's being a complete, full-grown person. It is the "perfection towards a given end, and for a given purpose" (Barclay). This patient, steadfast endurance causes us to be entire (holokleros) which carries the idea of having all that which belongs to us, like a baby with all of its parts and, therefore, normal. Patience gives us maturity and completeness and also causes us to be deficient in nothing. (\*\*\*\*  
**CONTINUED IN NEXT WEEKS BULLETIN \*\*\*\*\*)**