

Perseverance

"And perseverance through much tribulation builds our character and gives us substance..." (Paraphrased from Romans 5)

Recently we received two interesting articles — one from Kelly Varner and one from Reuven Doron. Both were an admonition to the church in the wilderness. One article from Galatians 6 encouraging all to “not give up when the promises seem to never happen”. The other one was from Romans 5 explaining how tribulation and suffering develops perseverance — and the fruit of perseverance is character that has been proven and a living hope that does not disappoint. Then the frosting on the cake: the hope born out of tribulation leads to the love of God being shed abroad from the heart. Saints in the making — could you ask for more than that??

Now, if I may, let me build on another’s foundation. When I got these timely messages my spirit hollered, “Eureka, what is happening???”

I had just written an article about the true resurrected church who were all of one accord, one spirit, one heart and one mind — who have become a new creation through much tribulation and suffering. Knowing from experience how painful and difficult this process is and how far the unborn church (which is married to the world) is from the reality of the Father, I began to wonder if God was, indeed, going to take this apostate seed and bring it into the fulfillment of Christ.

Let us all work together to help fulfill what God has in mind — that is the body of Christ in which He can dwell. First of all — realize this — the body has members who are all working together. There are no pastors nor is one member or cell higher than another. We are all members like the cells of the physical body and each has his work to do and only his work to do. Do not look back to the five fold ministries for that is not what concerns the “body of Christ”.

Considering that — now let us go on. First let us examine what we are persevering for — what is our hope???? What are we hoping for?? If our hope is having a ranch for the body or buildings for the body or a prophet’s school, or perhaps our hope is for our nation or that our family gets saved. Now all of these are good hopes but none of them will change your inner man. You can, perhaps, end up with your hopes being realized but miss the kingdom. **Our only hope should be “Christ in us, the hope of glory.”** That desire to have Christ as Lord should be uppermost in our heart. And that, dear friends, means pain and suffering the kind of which Jesus sweat great drops of blood. His will became the Father’s will.

Usually just before the dawn when the promises are to be fulfilled the hour is darkest; when hope is gone, despair sets in and people leave or give up. It is that persevering when there seems nothing more to persevere for that suddenly the Son breaks through and **behold, all things fall together — not the way we expected, but bigger and better than we could ever dream.**

That last drop of blood shed is, indeed, the most excruciating of pain. However, it puts us under our own fig tree where we sup with the Lord once again in the kingdom.

So, dear sojourner, this hour in which we live is either going to be the darkness before the glorious dawn or it will be darkness that leads to another dark ages. Can we as an apostate church become so unified, not as a ‘world church’ but as the body of Christ that we bring in the glorious kingdom wherein dwells righteousness and where His will reigns in the earth as in heaven.



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