

"A Persevering Faith"



Introduction

In a sermon entitled *"It's Up From Here"* by Pastor Michael Phillips, Pastor Phillips states that we are in a moment of "contemporary panic". He further states that the only thing that can calm your fears is the intentionality of God. Remember who God is and persevere in your faith!

Today's Lesson Objectives

- **Explore** the stories of early believers who suffered for the sake of their faith
- **Long** for the courage to endure suffering as a result of our faithful witness
- **Share** in the suffering of Christians around the world

Scripture

Hebrews 10:23-36 (KJV)

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 40:1-13

About Today's Lesson...

The Christian life is not without trials, tribulations, and suffering. Many early Christians faced persecution and even death for persevering in their faith regarding the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus, in a discussion with the apostles regarding His pending work on the cross said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33, KJV). In 2 Timothy 3:12 (KJV) the apostle Paul says, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution". So as Christians, there is no escaping persecution. But keeping the faith and enduring persecution is not the end of the story.

In the lesson for this week, the author of Hebrews exhorts the audience to hold on to their Christian faith - to persevere. This counsel came at a time when the traditions of Judaism likely caused many Hebrew Christians to rethink their allegiance to Christ. After telling the audience to hold steadfast in their faith, the author makes it clear that a willful and deliberate return to a sinful life (after having received knowledge of the truth about Christ) would lead them to a "point of no return" and subject them to harsh punishment from the Lord. The audience is then reminded that they had previously endured "a great fight of afflictions" and that with continued confidence and patience, God's promises would be realized.

When trials, tribulations, and suffering comes, remember this: "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18, KJV). So....Keep Going !

Join Mt. Zion's Virtual Sunday School via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/99731464449?pwd=dUZqWW5MVituL2hTY2NDdU8rVm9Kdz09>

Meeting ID: 997 3146 4449

Passcode: 136910

