



Hello again from Quarantine! It's a rainy Thursday here in Lancaster Ohio (glad you can't hear me say LANCASTER -- I still can't get this Ohio dialogue right - LOL). I pray everyone is doing well with the help and guidance of the Lord.

Today's devotion reminds us of our sufferings for the Lord. Why, you might ask? This scripture makes a portion of it plain....

Because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. John 15:19

In order to be a part of the Family of God, or the Kingdom of God..... in order to be adopted in, "marvel not, we must be born again". While living in our sinful conditions, we were in fellowship with the world. We followed in the worlds ways. We were corrupted by the things of the world. And we were at odds with the Creator. Being saved isn't just about getting cleaned up. There are bigger changes that take place. We were originally created in the image of God sin tainted that, and our new birth restores us. So we are no longer "of the world". We were in sin and in opposition to God. Now we are in Christ, and in opposition to the world. "THEREFORE the world Hateth you".

We live in a day that standing with God and standing in the ways of God will bring a reaction from those in the world. I ask these questions first, what does God think about abortion? About being a drunkard? About fornication? Foul language? Modesty? Homosexuality? Greed? Selfishness? We

know how God feels. Truth is even the world knows how God feels. As His children we are to walk in His ways, not concerned about pleasing people. When we begin to talk about suffering, nothing compares to what Christ went through. He was despised - and rejected. What do we really have to deal with at this point?

Let me start a new paragraph with a new question as you ponder the last. Because our suffering is light in comparison to our Lord. Are you Pressing toward the Lord? We must understand that if we are true seekers of the Lord, that we will have TRIBULATION. The new birth alone puts us in opposition, so don't be surprised when you come up against the world. We are pushing upstream in this world, and when we strive to press toward the Lord, we will feel the opposition. If your concern is pleasing people, you will find that you will have to compromise what God says. The worlds ways are about self, and God's are selfless. The world is sacrificing for things that are empty. God asks us to Live Sacrificially for the benefit of eternity.

Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Heb. 12:1, 2

We are reminded "run with patience". Be encouraged..... because "it will be worth it after all child, it will be worth it after all", Fight the good fight! And it's just that sometimes, it's a battle. A battle of our own thoughts, of the people around us, and never forget the powers and principalities of powers in this world. Run with patience! And don't forget, the prize! Don't forget you don't run alone. And don't grow discouraged because you meet opposition in the world just let it be a reminder of who you are in fellowship with.

Praise the Lord that we don't walk alone!

God bless - Pastor Paul

May 14

The fellowship of His sufferings. Phil. 3:10

It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. Matt. 10:25

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Isa. 53:3

In the world ye shall have tribulation. John 16:33

Because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. John 15:19

I looked for some to take pity, but there was none. Psa. 69:20

At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me. II Tim. 4:16

The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. Matt. 8:20

Here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. Heb. 13:14

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