

## Enduring Hard Times, Colossians 1:7-14 – May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- I have to confess that I have really been looking forward to teaching this passage here in Colossians for quite some time now.
- This because of what the Apostle Paul writes to them, concerning what he was continually, and specifically, praying for them.
- Namely, their being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so as to have great endurance and patience.

- The question becomes one of why he would specifically pray for this instead of any number of things he could have prayed for.
- The answer is in verses 9-10 where he asks God to fill them with knowledge of His will through all wisdom and understanding.
- In other words, it's the will of God that they are being strengthened with all power so they'll have great endurance and patience.

- I would suggest that among the greatest needs we have as Christians is for strength, power, endurance and patience in trials.
- Make no mistake about it the Colossian Christians faced great hardship and difficulties on a daily basis when this was penned.
- It's for this reason Paul prayed for what they needed the most in order to remain steadfast in the face of tremendous adversity.

- If you'll kindly allow me to, I would like to share with you what the Lord has ministered to me over the years concerning trials.
- Specifically as it relates to how it is that God strengthens us in and through the trial, and in so doing produces perseverance.
- In order to do that I'll first need to both define and differentiate between strength and power and endurance and perseverance.

- First it's important to understand that both endurance and perseverance along with strength and power are roommates of sorts.
- By that I mean, endurance is the strength in the difficulty, and perseverance is the power to press on and get through difficulty.
- The question now becomes, how do I get this strength and power to endure and persevere? Answer, it's produced in the trial.

James 1:2-4 - 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Romans 5:3-5 - 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.