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# YOKEFELLOW

Vol. 37, No. 1

January 2010

## LONGSUFFERING (III)

*Bobby Liddell*

### GOD'S LONGSUFFERING

What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory (Rom. 9:22-23).

Men can learn about how they should be longsuffering by looking to God's longsuffering. Let us examine what Paul wrote to Timothy, gospel preacher and Paul's son in the faith, about how God was longsuffering toward Paul.

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save

sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen (1 Tim. 1:12-17).

God extended mercy, in His longsuffering, to the "chief of sinners." Surely, we are to be thankful for God's patiently enduring with us, and be patient with others as well. Paul obtained mercy, he wrote, "that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting." The lesson Paul learned made a great impression upon him, so much so that he could write (without boasting):

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea,

*Continued on page 3*

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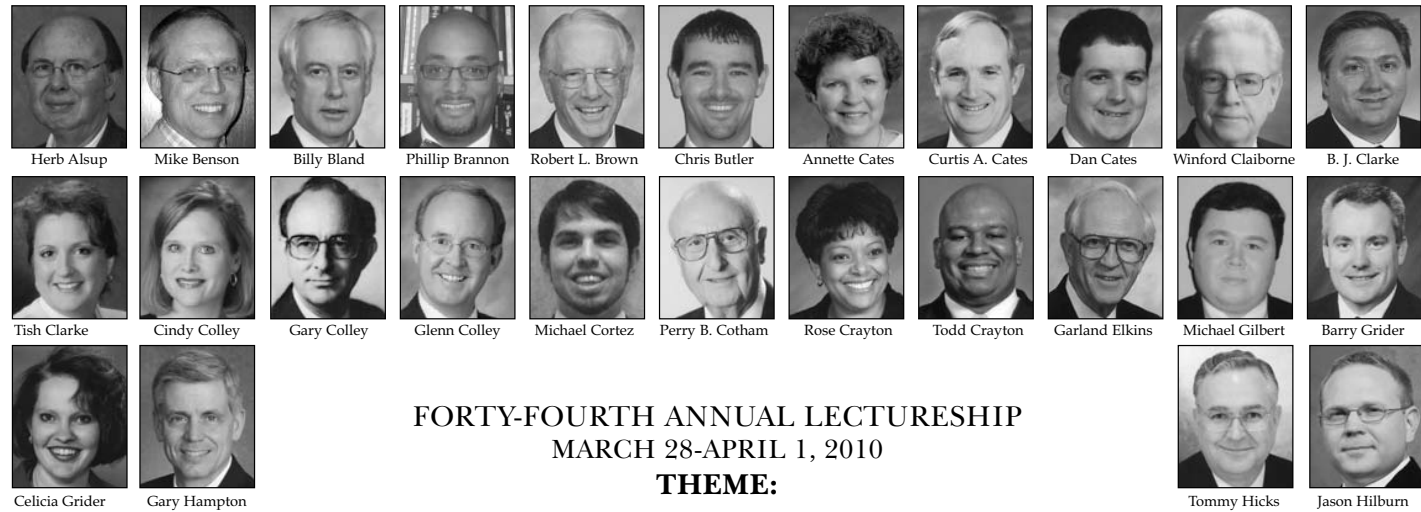
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**FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL LECTURESHIP  
MARCH 28-APRIL 1, 2010**

**THEME:**

**“SHADOWS OF GOOD THINGS”**

**MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING**

**3950 Forest Hill Irene Road, Memphis, TN 38125-2560 • (901) 751-2242**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2010**  
 9:30-10:20 A.M. Evangelism: The Tree of Life .....David Sain  
 10:30-11:30 A.M. Isaac: Submission Personified.....Barry Grider  
 5:30-6:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING  
 6:00-7:00 P.M. God: Our Portion.....Paul Sain

**MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2010**  
 8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL: What Is A Metaphor?.....Jerry Jones  
 9:00-9:50 A.M. Nature and Purpose of Types .....Wayne Price  
 10:00-10:50 A.M. Adam and Christ.....Michael Light  
 LADIES\*  
 The Church Compared to a Virgin  
 (Women Only).....Cecilia Grider  
 Christ: Heir of All Things .....Gary Colley  
 Noah and Christ.....Phillip Brannon  
 LUNCH  
 11:50-1:30 P.M. Christ: Captain of Our Salvation.....Winfred Claiborne  
 1:30-2:20 P.M. The Church Compared to a Mother  
 (Women Only).....Jane McWhorter  
 2:30-3:20 P.M. Moses and Christ.....Rusty Hills  
 CLASS\*  
 Hagar and Sarah: An Allegory.....Dan Cates  
 3:30-4:15 P.M. Christ: The Mercy Seat.....Cliff Sabroe  
 INTERMISSION  
 4:15-6:30 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING  
 6:30-7:00 P.M. God: A “Father”.....Dan Winkler  
 7:00-8:00 P.M.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2010**  
 8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL: Saints Compared To Light .....Devin Dean  
 9:00-9:50 A.M. Christ: A Mediator.....Wayne Lankford  
 10:00-10:50 A.M. Christ: The Wonderful Counselor .....Neal Pollard  
 LADIES\*  
 The Church Compared to a Wife  
 (Women Only).....Cindy Colley  
 Joseph and Christ.....Tom Wacaster  
 CLASS\*  
 Manna: A Type of Christ .....Jason Hilburn  
 LUNCH  
 11:50-1:30 P.M. Christ: The Paschal Lamb.....Glenn Colley  
 1:30-2:20 P.M. The Church Compared to a Garden  
 (Women Only).....Kathy Pollard  
 Christ and the Ark of the Covenant.....Mike McDaniel  
 CLASS\*  
 The Ark: A Type of the Church.....Michael Gilbert  
 SEMINAR FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS  
 AND SUPPORTERS (MSOP CHAPEL)  
 3:30-4:15 P.M. Melchizedec: A Type of the Christ.....Michael Cortez  
 4:15-6:30 P.M. ALUMNI AND FRIENDS DINNER  
 (FELLOWSHIP HALL)  
 CONGREGATIONAL SINGING  
 6:30-7:00 P.M. God: A “Habitation”.....Tom Holland  
 7:00-8:00 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2010**  
 8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL: Saints Compared To Soldiers .....Jesse Claunch  
 9:00-9:50 A.M. Job and Christ.....Curtis A. Cates  
 10:00-10:50 A.M. Leprosy: A Type of Sin.....Tommy Hicks  
 LADIES\*  
 The Church Compared to a Flock of Sheep  
 (Women Only).....Irene Taylor  
 Jonah and Christ.....Keith A. Mosher, Sr.  
 CLASS\*  
 The Tabernacle Types.....Todd Crayton  
 LUNCH  
 11:50-1:30 P.M. David and Christ.....Bobby Liddell  
 1:30-2:20 P.M. The Church Compared to a Golden Candlestick  
 (Women Only).....Rose Crayton  
 Christ: A Fountain.....B. J. Clarke  
 CLASS\*  
 Joshua and Christ.....Billy Bland  
 Christ and the Brazen Serpent.....Jerry Martin  
 4:15-6:30 P.M. INTERMISSION  
 6:30-7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING  
 7:00-8:00 P.M. God: An Husbandman.....Phil Sanders

**THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2010**  
 8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL: Saints Compared To Pilgrims.....Jesus Perez  
 9:00-9:50 A.M. Christ the “Smitten Rock” .....Perry Cotham  
 10:00-10:50 A.M. Jerusalem: A Type of the Church .....Garland Elkins  
 LADIES\*  
 The Church Compared to a Lily (Women Only).....Tish Clarke  
 Christ the “Root of David” .....Robert Brown  
 Christ the “Bright and Morning Star” .....Chris Butler  
 CLASS\*  
 LUNCH  
 11:50-1:30 P.M. Rebuilding the Walls.....Riley Nelson  
 1:30-2:20 P.M. The Church Compared to a Household  
 (Women Only).....Annette Cates  
 CLASS\*  
 The Church: “A Burning Bush”.....Gary Hampton  
 Israel Saved: A Type of Salvation.....Herb Alsup  
 3:30-4:15 P.M. God: A Man of War.....Mike Benson  
 4:15-6:30 P.M. INTERMISSION  
 6:30-7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING  
 7:00-8:00 P.M. God: A Builder.....Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

\* All Men’s Classes meet in the School Building in Room 405

\* All Women’s Classes meet in the Fellowship Hall



**Longsuffering continued**

and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived (2 Tim. 3:10-13).

Having learned, from God, how to be longsuffering, Paul could patiently endure persecutions and afflictions. He did not allow anger to overcome him, and he sought the good of others in spite of how badly they treated him. All Christians, must learn that godliness will bring persecution (v. 12). The question is not, “Will persecution come?” but “Will we endure?” Of note also, from this passage, is the truth that evil men and seducers will grow worse and worse. Let us have hope in longsuffering, knowing this: “The Lord knoweth them that are his” (2 Tim. 2:19), and those who are not.

At the same time, we must forbear, even with those who would persecute us, and be willing to forgive. We dare not allow ourselves to be pressured, or goaded, into an angry response to those who would oppose us and persecute us. If we allow someone to make us angry, we are no longer in control, but he controls us. Instead, our trust in God should increase, our confident hope should grow stronger, and our prayers for our enemies should be fervent and frequent.

In a discussion of the promise of the Lord’s second coming, Peter pointed to scoffers who deny Christ’s coming, by their affirming uniformitarianism, and he used the flood (cf. 1 Pet. 3:20) as proof that all things have not continued “as they were from the beginning of the creation” (2 Pet. 3:1-6). By the word of God, the heavens and the earth are “kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” (v. 7). Peter wrote:

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (v. 9).

Then, he penned: And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you (v. 15).

The Lord does not want any to perish, but does want all to come to repentance; thus, He is longsuffering. Every day, we should thank God that he is longsuffering toward us, allowing us time to repent.

Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another; thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? (Rom. 2:1-4).

God’s great example, “the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering,” should inspire us to endure patiently, to forbear lovingly, and to forego revenge, because of love, that we might offer forgiveness. God’s longsuffering does not mean that He overlooks sin, but that He is willing to work toward man’s salvation, even in the face of provocation, for He desires sinners to be saved.

**THE BLESSINGS OF LONGSUFFERING**

“Ministers of God” are to be longsuffering (2 Cor. 6:1-10). Why? In order that we might give “no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed,” as we seek our own salvation and the salvation of others (v. 3). While we know the urgency of our work (John 9:4; Mat. 24:36; Heb. 9:27; Mark 16:15-16), those whom we seek to save may not. Men in sin, generally, think they have plenty of time to make any needed changes, if indeed there are any changes that need to be made, for some think they may live as they please, and still be saved (cf. Mat. 7:13-14, 21ff). When we emphasize the importance of their obedience, we may find their reaction is to blame, accuse, oppose, and persecute us (cf. Gal. 4:16). Too often the messenger receives the angry response to the message; however, if we manifest calm, compassionate concern, in spite of such anger, we are blessed, and we may well be a blessing to the ones who, by their sin, oppose not only us, but themselves.

In preaching, we must patiently endure. Paul wrote: “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:2). So, we must exhort with longsuffering, not seeking to take revenge upon those who

mistreat us, or to destroy those who oppose us, but to show the example of godliness by patiently entreating, being slow to anger; but “long in spirit.”

Likewise, in our dealings with our own brethren, we often find opposition, persecution, insult, and injury. What shall we do in response? We must be longsuffering.

Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience [longsuffering, BL]. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy (Jam. 5:9-11).

We know that through longsuffering, we shall receive the blessings God has promised for us. The Hebrews writer put it this way:

And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience [longsuffering, BL] inherit the promises (Heb. 6:11-12).

If we are longsuffering, we will be fruitful and strong, and we will partake in the inheritance of the saints in light.

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light (Col. 1:10-12).

**CONCLUSION**

Longsuffering, included in the “fruit of the Spirit,” means we are slow to anger, ready to forgive, and gentle in our dealing with others. It does not mean just accepting wrong done to us, but it does mean engaging in enduring wrong with the right attitude of heart, and with the right purpose in mind. As God has been longsuffering to us, so we should learn to be longsuffering, and we will be truly blessed by doing so.