

True Christians Persevere for Christ

2 Thessalonians 1:4-5

There is no attempt in Scripture to whitewash the anguish of God's people when they undergo suffering. They argue with God, they complain to God, they weep before God. Theirs is not a faith that leads to dry-eyed stoicism, but a faith so robust it wrestles with God.

Carson, D. A. 2006. *How Long, O Lord? Reflections on Suffering and Evil*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 66

To the eyes of faith, there are, finally, no accidents, only incidents; and in these, Paul assures us, God is working for our good. To walk into the unknown with a God of unqualified power and unfailing goodness is safer than a known way.

Ibid., 214

True faith isn't _____, but it is _____.
A steadfast faith is _____ for enduring troubles.

2 Thessalonians 1:4; James 1:2-4

People who offer to be Christ's servants must be prepared to endure hardships patiently. Unless evils are endured there will never be any perseverance.

Calvin, John. 1998. *1, 2 Timothy and Titus*. Crossway Classic Commentaries. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

The Christian life is filled with _____ for Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:4; Matthew 5:10 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Only true Christians will _____ hardships for Christ.

Jude 18-19; 2 Thessalonians 1:4

Even though many storms and floods arise and beat against them, yet these things will never be able to move the elect from the foundation and rock to which they are anchored by faith.

LBC 17.1

Hebrews 6:19-20

God is continually _____ His Church and
_____ His people.
God, in righteousness _____ and
_____ those who persevere in their faith in
Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:5

*In the divine plan, the suffering of God's people
plays a central role and should not be construed as
a sign of God's rejection or neglect of his own.*

Green, Gene L. 2002. *The Letters to the Thessalonians*. The Pillar
New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester,
England: W.B. Eerdmans Pub.; Apollos.

1 Peter 4:13-14

Faith in Christ is revealed when we _____
_____ for the gospel.

2 Thessalonians 1:5

*Sufferings of such a sort may be very terrible, but
they are exceedingly honorable, and the comforts of
the Lord will sustain those who are accounted
worthy to suffer for Christ's sake.*

Spurgeon, C. H. 1993. *Psalms*. Crossway Classic Commentaries.
Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

Acts 5:40-41

God's divine plan is to _____ those who are
true children for whom His _____ has been
prepared.

2 Thessalonians 1:5; Romans 8:18-19

1 Peter 1:6-7

*Watch not the clouds, consult not the wind—in season and out of
season witness for the Saviour, and if it shall come to pass that for
Christ's sake and the gospel's you shall endure suffering in any
shape, shrink not, but rejoice in the honour thus conferred upon
you, that you are counted worthy to suffer with your Lord; and joy
also in this—that your sufferings, your losses, and persecutions
shall make you a platform, from which the more vigorously and
with greater power you shall witness for Christ Jesus.*

Spurgeon, C. H. 1896. *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings*. London: Passmore &
Alabaster.