

Lesson 12

Memory verse – I Cor. 13:4

Charity suffers long. Long suffering is a primary characteristic of charity.

Long suffering is something God loves. Let's look at the longsuffering of God.

Ex. 34:6, 7 gives us a picture of God

In Ex. 33:18 Moses beseeches the Lord to shew him His glory. In vs. 6 of chapter 34 The LORD passes by Moses and proclaims "...The LORD The LORD God, merciful and gracious, _____, and abundant in goodness and truth," Verse 7. "Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgressions and sin, and that will by no means _____ the _____, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation."

God's longsuffering is for the purpose of salvation. God's longsuffering is not without limits. God's longsuffering will not compromise His justice or His holiness.

Ps. 86:15 "But thou, O Lord, art a God full of _____, and _____, _____, and plenteous in mercy and truth."

Rom. 2:4 "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and _____; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

Again, salvation and longsuffering are connected.

Peter talks of the longsuffering of God back in Noah's day.

I Pet. 3:20. God's longsuffering _____ while the _____ was preparing. Wherein _____, that is _____ souls were _____ by water.

Do you know how many years the ark was preparing? _____ Gen. 6:3

What was Noah doing while the Lord was longsuffering?

II Pet. 2:5 "And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a _____ of _____,..."

II Pet. 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promises, as some men count slackness, but is _____ to us-ward, not willing that any should _____, but that _____ should come to repentance."

And Peter explaining to the believing Jews about **why** the delay in their Messiah's return says in II Pet. 3:15 "And account that the _____ of our Lord is _____; even as our beloved brother _____ also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;"

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Verse 16 – the longsuffering is the “these things” in this verse.

The Jews were expecting the return of the Lord according to their prophesy program. But why the delay? Paul gives the answer. God had a secret. He would set Israel and her program aside for a time and usher in the dispensation of grace. Read Eph. 3:1-12 for this information.

God’s longsuffering is all about saving soul’s.

The apostle Paul suffered long for the salvation of the souls of men. Read II Cor. 6:1-10. This is a longsuffering pattern for us.

Lest you think this is something you do look at Gal. 5:22, longsuffering is a fruit of the _____.

Col.1:11 also points us to the power to perform “_____ with all _____, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and _____ with joyfulness;”

This study on longsuffering has been enlightening to me. I never thought much about suffering long in connection to the salvation of others.

What encouragement to let every detail of our lives be lived with the salvation of others in mind. We can demonstrate longsuffering to our family, friends, neighbors, school mates or strangers. We need not be discouraged with what appears to be poor results. After preaching for 120 years, Noah had _____ people in the safety of the ark. II Pet. 2:5 says that just Noah, his wife, 3 sons and their wives were the only ones to enter the ark.

Paul encourages Timothy along these lines when he says in II Tim. 1:8 “Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou _____ of the _____ according to the power of God.”

And finally we must not leave the saints out when it comes to suffering long. Do you find it difficult to be charitable to the saints?

Eph. 4:2 “With all lowliness and meekness, with _____, forbearing one another in _____.”

Col. 3:12 “...humbleness of mind, meekness, _____; vs. 13 Forbearing one _____ ...”

God’s love toward the saints is active. It encourages us.

Rom. 8:35 “Who shall separate us from the _____ of Christ?” The love of Christ constrains us, picks us up and carries us along.

II Cor. 5:14 “For the love of Christ _____ us;...”

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It establishes us. Eph. 3:17, 18 "...being _____ and _____ in _____..."

It comforts us. "...if any _____ of _____..." Phil. 2:1

It also does the tough things, corrects, instructs and admonishes.

II Cor. 2:4 "For out of much affliction and _____ of _____ I wrote unto you with many _____; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the _____ which I have more abundantly unto you."

What more can be said than to let charity reign in our lives to both the lost and the saved.

Lesson 12 Comments and Answers

On the last page of lesson 12 Phil. 2:1 should have been given next to “It comforts us”

Longsuffering	strengthened
Clear	might
guilty	
Compassion	longsuffering
Gracious	8
Longsuffering	partaker
Longsuffering	afflictions
Waited	gospel
Ark	longsuffering
Few	love
Eight	love
Saved	constraineth
120	rooted
preacher	grounded
righteousness	love
longsuffering	comfort
perish	love
all	anguish
longsuffering	heart
salvation	tears
Paul	love
Spirit	

There are many causes that the world is charitable towards. Some are very worthy and good. One cause the world will never be charitable towards is the salvation of the souls of men. The believer's pattern for charity must have as it's main focus, the salvation of the lost. The time, money, energy, and emotion that we invest should have at it's heart the spiritual needs of others. To be spending our time in other endeavors is to miss the thing that God suffers long for.