

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: **2** preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. **3** For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, **4** and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. **5** As for you, always **be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.** **6** For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. **7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.** **8** Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to **all who have loved his appearing.** 2 Timothy 4:1-8

We are charged to endure. Endurance (as well as hope) is only required in the face of opposition. Eating an ice cream cone does not require endurance or hope or faith. Finishing a race requires endurance because your body is opposed to the will of your mind which seeks to finish the race. If following Jesus goes without persecution and suffering, then endurance and perseverance would not be required. But that is not what the Scripture says.

- Remember the word that I said to you: A servant is not greater than his master. **If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.** If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. John 15:20
- Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, **2** and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, **3** that no one be moved by these afflictions. For **you yourselves know that we are destined for this.** **4** For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. 1 Thessalonians 3:1-4
- Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus **will** be persecuted. 2 Timothy 3:12
- To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, **12** and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; **13** when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things. 1 Corinthians 4:11-13
- Jesus said, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, **30** who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. **31** But many who are first will be last, and the last first. Mark 10:29-31

All whom Jesus chooses will be persecuted and hated by the world.




If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. **19** If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but **because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.** John 15:18-19

You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. **17 You will be hated by all for my name's sake.** **18** But not a hair of your head will perish. **19** By your endurance you will gain your lives. Luke 21:16-19

For we know, brothers loved by God, that **he has chosen you,** **5** because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. **6** And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for **you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,** **7** so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. **8** For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. **9** For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, **10** and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

Persecutions and afflictions test us to reveal if we are joined to Jesus or something else. By way of these, the lukewarm category is eliminated. We will either hold fast to Jesus or fall away. It is God's grace given to us that we might be given opportunity to repent of trusting in other things.

Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet **he has no root** in himself, but endures for a while, and **when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.** ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty. Matthew 13:18-23

-  Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12
-  Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 1 Peter 4:12
-  Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! ⁶ I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. 2 Corinthians 13:5-6

Therefore, be rooted and established, holding fast to the Word...

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, ² that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, **to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,** ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴ I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. ⁵ For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the **firmness** of your faith in Christ. ⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established** in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. Colossians 2:1-15

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be **strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,** ¹⁷ **so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**—that you, **being rooted and grounded in love,** ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:14-21

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be **strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,** ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:9-14

Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. **11** I am coming soon. **Hold fast what you have**, so that no one may seize your crown. **12** The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. Revelation 3:10-12

Only **hold fast what you have until I come**. **26** The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, **27** and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. Revelation 2:25-27

I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. **Yet you hold fast my name**, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. Revelation 2:13

So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, **18** so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to **hold fast to the hope set before us**. **19** We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, **20** where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. Hebrews 6:17-20

Do all things without grumbling or questioning, **15** that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, **16 holding fast to the word of life**, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Philippians 2:14-16

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, **2** and by which you are being saved, **if you hold fast to the word** I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:1-2

And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. **14** And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. **15** As for that in the good soil, they are those who, **hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience**. Luke 8:13-16

Questions that might make us poop our pants...

- Jesus said that the branch that does not bear fruit is cut off and to be burned (See John 15). Apparently the mark of a Christ-follower is that Jesus is bearing fruit with their life. If fruit is not being produced, there is no connection to the Vine (Jesus). In the parable of the sower (See Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:4-15), Jesus identifies three things that prevent fruitfulness. One, Satan himself comes and steals the Word of God rendering belief impossible (See Romans 10:17); Two, a time of testing (persecution on account of the Word of God) causes them to fall away for lack of root; Three, the Word of God is heard but they continue 'on their way' and the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches and desires for other things prevent the Word from being fruitful. So, if we are Christians and are un-hated by the world (free from persecution and affliction) and are simply continuing 'on our way' enjoying the goods of the world and our riches - are we not the seed that is being choked by thorns? And from a distance there is an appearance of life (green leaves) but no mature and edible fruit? And if persecution did come on account of the Word, would we become uprooted or find that we do have roots that go down deep? So if this is who we are, are we not then doomed to destruction? Let us test and examine our ways and return to the Lord before it is too late!
- According to Scripture, is it possible to be with Jesus and not be persecuted on account of us trusting (hearing and doing) His Word?
- Are we blind and deaf to what it means to be with Jesus because our primary goal is to feel good (avoid affliction and persecution and win the world's applause (our friends, our family, our boss, the admiration and envy of strangers, etc., fill in your own blank...)?
- Is salvation even salvation apart from the persecution that we are told will accompany such salvation? (See 1 Thessalonians 3:1-4)

The (persecuted and afflicted) life of those who have been saved by the blood of the Lamb...

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. **8 We are afflicted in every way**, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; **9 persecuted**, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; **10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus**, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. **11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.** **12** So death is at work in us, but life in you. **13** Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, I believed, and so I spoke, we also believe, and so we also speak, **14 knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.** **15** For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. **16** So we do not lose heart. Though **our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.** **17 For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,** **18** as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and **in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,** **25** of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, **26** the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. **27** To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. **28** Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. **29** For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me. Colossians 1:24-28

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us **run with endurance the race that is set before us,** **2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,** who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. **3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.** **4** In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. **5** And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. **6** For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. **7** It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? **8** If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. **9** Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? **10** For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. **11** For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. **12** Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, **13** and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. **14** Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. Hebrews 12:1-14

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **10** so as to **walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him,** bearing fruit [See *John 15*] in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. **11** May you be **strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,** **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. **13** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:9-14

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that **through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.** **5** May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, **6** that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **7** Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Romans 15:4-7

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because **your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.** **4** Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for **your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.** 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

It is those who **want to make a good showing in the flesh** who would force you to be circumcised, and **only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.** Galatians 6:12

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For ***as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.*** ⁶ If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience ***when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.*** ⁷ Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort. ⁸ For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For ***we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.*** ⁹ ***Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.*** ¹⁰ He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. ¹¹ You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many. ¹² For our boast is this: the testimony of our conscience that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you. ¹³ For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and acknowledge and I hope you will fully acknowledge— ¹⁴ just as you did partially acknowledge us, that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you. 2 Corinthians 1:3-14

In all our affliction, I am ***overflowing with joy.*** 2 Corinthians 7:4

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ ***More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,*** ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:1-5

Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, ² and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to ***establish and exhort you in your faith,*** ³ ***that no one be moved by these afflictions (See Matthew 13:20-21).*** For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. ⁴ For when we were with you, ***we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass,*** and just as you know. ⁵ For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, ***I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.*** ⁶ But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you— ⁷ ***for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith.*** ⁸ ***For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord.*** ⁹ For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God. 1 Thessalonians 3:1-9

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the ***law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus*** from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled ***in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*** ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh ***set their minds on the things of the flesh,*** but those who live according to the Spirit ***set their minds on the things of the Spirit.*** ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ ***Those who are in the flesh cannot please God (See Hebrews 11:6; Romans 14:23).*** ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. ¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For ***if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*** ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, ***provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*** ¹⁸ For I consider that ***the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*** ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Romans 8:1-24

So be steadfast...

I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. **53** For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. **54** When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. **55** O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? **56** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But **thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.** **58** **Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.** 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **23** **if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard,** which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. Colossians 1:21-23

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. **3** At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— **4** that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. **5** Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. **6** Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. Colossians 4:2-6

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. **4** Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for **your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.** 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. **8** You also, be patient. **Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.** **9** Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. **10** As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11** Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. James 5:7-11

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. **10** And then **many will fall away** and betray one another and hate one another. **11** And **many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.** **12** And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. **13** **But the one who endures to the end will be saved.** **14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. **15** "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), **16** then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. **17** Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, **18** and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. **19** And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! **20** Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. **21** For then **there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.** **22** **And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.** **23** Then if anyone says to you, Look, here is the Christ! or There he is! do not believe it. **24** For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. **25** **See, I have told you beforehand.** **26** So, if they say to you, Look, he is in the wilderness, do not go out. If they say, Look, he is in the inner rooms, do not believe it. **27** For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **28** Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. **29** "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. **30** Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. **31** And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Matthew 24:9-31