

Week of May 3, 2021: Perseverance Introduction



Discussion Questions Set #1

Perseverance is “steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success” (Oxford Dictionary).

Perseverance can refer to a passive act “endurance under the general trials of life, Christian service or discipline” or it can be active “which involves persistence in well-doing, fruit-bearing and running the appointed race despite trials and distractions of life”. (Vines Complete Expository Dictionary)

1. Perseverance is a concept that culturally has gained a definition something like “the ability to stick to it”. When you think of perseverance, thoughts, ideas, experiences or definitions come to mind?
2. Do you think there is a difference between the perseverance championed in culture and the perseverance posited in Scripture? Discuss, particularly keeping in mind the concept of source of perseverance.
3. Why might it be important to note both the passive and active aspects of perseverance when it comes to following Jesus?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted ... continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of”. (2 Timothy 2:12 and 14)

“The one who endures to the end will be saved.” (Mark 13:13)

“We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” (Romans 5:3-5).

NOTE: In the Greek, the word we see translated as character in our text from Romans 5 is actually a Greek word meaning “tested-ness” or “proven”.

1. What is the practical importance of perseverance in the life of the follower of Jesus?
2. What is the spiritual importance of perseverance in the life of the follower of Jesus?
3. Discuss the following process:



4. Whereas the transitions from suffering to perseverance to proven character seems rational, the transition from proven character to hope is less evidently clear. Discuss how proven character leads to hope? How does the qualifier “proven or tested” help us understand what is going on?

Discussion Questions Set #3

““He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ ... therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” (Philippians 1:6 and 2:12-13)

In sermon, we talked about a polarity in terms of the presence of perseverance in the life of the follower of Jesus – a works-righteousness (self-effort) approach and an antinomian (no-effort) approach. Both of these positions emerge out of our view of the process of salvation.

1. What problems might emerge if we follow a works-righteousness (totally self-effort) approach to perseverance in our lives?
2. What problems might emerge if we follow an antinomian (no-effort) approach to perseverance in our lives?
3. What might a balanced understanding of perseverance look like and how might this be beneficial to the follower of Jesus?