

## Endurance

Satan does not really care how much good you do and even how well you follow in the footsteps of Jesus. He does not even care if you give yourself fully to Jesus. Why? Because he knows he can pull many away from their first love! When endurance in love and faithfulness fail, Satan wins back a soul!

In Revelation 2 Jesus compliments the church at Ephesus beautifully in several ways, but they have one problem – they left their first love. Their love for Jesus and for one another had grown a bit cold. Jesus tells them to return to their Christian love **and** do the deeds they did at first *or they would not long belong to Him!*

As I read this passage (Rev. 2:1-5) I think of the word “endurance.” Endurance in their love and endurance in their deeds. And as I ponder those to things I think of the Pine Valley church of Christ. I see hearts enduring in their love for one another and I see hands that endure in their deeds.

Scripture has a lot to say about endurance. When Christians follow “in His steps” (1 Peter 2:21) it creates confidence. (Self discipline is always a necessary ingredient in confidence!) That confidence itself is a necessary ingredient for endurance. How do we know that ? God said so!

In Hebrews chapter 10 we see the link. After referring to their faithful work in the past (vv. 32-34) we see this admonition in vv. 35 and 36:

*Therefore, do not throw away your **confidence**, which has a great reward. For you have need of **endurance**, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.*

Did you catch it? You need confidence because it leads to endurance! I keep seeing faithful work in our church family that is a blessing to all. May God continue to bless us with faithful service that leads confidence that builds endurance in His kingdom.

-Ray Wallace