

Endure

Matthew 10:22-And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. (KJV)

The journey from the Baptismal font to departure from this life requires endurance, Believers do not know the length of personal life and must be prepared to endure. The Holy Scriptures advise believers to endure until the very end of earthly life. Jesus Christ is ever-present with believers during life's earthly journey. (Mt.28:20) Prayer connects and strengthens believers in Jesus Christ throughout earthly life.

Mark 4:17-And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. (KJV)

Believers resolutely rooted in Jesus Christ endure through periods of real hardship. Personal crosses challenge the endurance of believers and require help from Christ. Drawing strength and hope from Jesus Christ is the way to face personal crosses. Jesus Christ makes personal crosses manageable and strengthens faithful believers. Believers are renewed through Jesus Christ when taking up their personal crosses.

John 6:27-Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. (KJV)

Believers seeking everlasting life begin the long journey at the Baptismal font. The journey to eternal life is not always smooth and requires Christ's nourishment. Jesus Christ is nourishment for believers making endurance to life's end possible. The Church nourishes believers in Christ through firmly proclaiming the Gospel. God's Holy Church provides nourishment from Jesus Christ in Holy Communion.

I Corinthians 13:7-Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. (KJV)

Love is paramount in the life in Jesus Christ and is best learned in the Church. Life is put into proper perspective when love permeates the heart, mind and soul. Holy Apostle Paul speaks eloquently about love in the Epistle to the Corinthians. Chapter 13 of the Epistle to the Corinthians gives the essence of the place of love. Believers learn love in the Church and are to practice love throughout earthly life.

Hebrews 12:2-Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (KJV)

The Lord Jesus Christ established the lasting and supreme example of endurance. Jesus Christ endured and did not turn away from experiencing death on the Cross. Jesus Christ's endurance until death on the Cross gave way to the Resurrection. Believers enduring their personal crosses experience new life in Christ. (Mk. 8:35)

Believers are expected to take up their crosses and follow Christ till the end. (Lk.9:23)

Holy Maartyr Agapius and Six Martyrs with him. March 15/March 28. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic