

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; in *all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: II Peter 1:2-6a “...But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control *perseverance*....”

Quote: Hebrews 12:1-2 “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with *endurance* the race that is set before us, 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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Perseverance is steadfast determination to react to the pressures, pains and duties of life in ways that embrace God’s providence. The same word is used in Hebrews 12:1 to describe how we are to run life’s race. It means “cheerful (hopeful) endurance, constancy; enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting).”

“In *all* His dispensations God is at work for our good. In prosperity He tries our gratitude; in mediocrity, our contentment; in misfortune, our submission; in darkness, our faith; under temptation, our steadfastness; and at all times, our obedience and trust in Him.”¹ Job is an extraordinary example of how perseverance in faith is inseparably tied to our knowledge of God. God said of Job, “There is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil.” Satan replied, “Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a *hedge around him*, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Behold, all that he has is in your power; *only do not lay a hand on his person.*’ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.”² Within one suffocating span of time, Job lost nearly all that he held dear! “Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: ‘The Lord

gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.’ In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.”²

Time passed, and God again asked Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And *still he holds fast to his integrity*, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him *without cause.*” “Satan answered, ‘Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!’ And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Behold, he is in your hand, *but spare his life.*’”³ Job was so covered with boils that his astonished friends, who came from afar to comfort him, were speechless for a week! So great was his pain that he cursed the day that he was born! The rest of the book consists of his friends accusing him of sin, his wife telling him to “curse God and die,” and Job defending his innocence until God brought *them all* to their knees. Stripped of his self-righteousness, Job responds to God’s interrogation. “I know that You can do everything,

Add perseverance to your faith

and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. I have uttered *what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know...* I have heard

of You by the hearing of the ear, *but now* my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” Job then prayed for his self-righteous friends and received God’s blessing. No one is immune to doubt and discouragement when dealing with a crisis. We must, however, refuse to become derailed or destroyed by circumstances that we see as our problem to endure, or to escape and not as God’s providence to embrace. Recall Peter’s words before instructing believers to add perseverance to their faith—“Grace and peace be *multiplied* to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.”⁴ He wrote this knowing that his martyrdom loomed ahead! *We cannot always understand what God is doing, but, like Peter, we must persevere in trusting Him for Who He is.*”⁵

1 Unknown 2 Job 1:8-12; 20-22 3 Job 2:2-6 4 II Peter 1:14-15 5 II Corinthians 1:3; Lamentations 3:21-26