

**“Living With Tenacity in Waiting For Jesus’ Return” 2/28/10**

**1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5**

**1 Thessalonians- “Living a Life of Focus in Expectation of Jesus’ Return”**

**POINT 1-** In waiting for Jesus it is good to be reminded of our REWARD

- A. Our rewards for serving Him can be HINDERED  
(v. 2:18; 1 Peter 5:8; literally, “to break up the road”)
- B. Our rewards for serving Him will be rendered at His COMING  
(Matthew 16:27; 1 Corinthians 3:8; 2 John 1:8; Revelation 22:12)

Imperishable Crown (1 Cor 9:24-25) for those who are disciplined and run the race to win.

Crown of rejoicing (1 Thess 2:19) for those that win souls

Crown of Righteousness (2 Tim 4:8) for those that love and wait for His appearing

Crown of Life (James 1:12; Rev 2:10) for those that endure and love the Lord; for those who die for their faith

Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:4) for those who shepherd the church

***Going Deeper*** God wants you to be determined, focused, and tenacious in serving Him!

**POINT 2-** In waiting for Jesus it is good to be reminded to PERSEVERE

*“They confronted me in the day of my trial, But the LORD was my support.” (2 Sam 22:19)*

- A. In order to persevere we need to be established and ENCOURAGED  
(v. 3:2; “flattered in these afflictions”; Warnings of Hebrews)
- B. In order to persevere we need to know that we are APPOINTED  
(v. 3:3; Acts 14:22; Phil 1:29; John 16:33; James 1:2-12; Rom 5:3-4)
- C. In order to persevere we need to be determined to ENDURE  
(Matt 13:20-21; 2 Cor 12:7-10; Heb 5:8; Book of Job; 1 Cor 10:12)

*“Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep” (Rom 12:15)*

***Going Deeper*** God wants you to embrace His purposes in trials and to endure!

*Meditate this week on the story of Horatio Spafford who wrote the hymn “It is Well with my soul”. What gave him his strength? How did he not end at being angry with God? What are you lacking in this kind of faith?*

Horatio and his wife had 4 daughters and 1 son.

1871- death of his only son

1871- Chicago fire ruined him financially

1873- Family sent to Europe; 4 daughters died; wife saved alone

1873- Traveled to meet wife and was inspired to write this hymn as he passed the spot of his daughters' drowning.

1881- Sailed for Israel; set up mission to serve poor in Jerusalem after the birth of three children. 1 son who died in infancy and 2 daughters.