

Acts
Sharing Christ with Patience
Acts 23:12 – 24:27

Patience is a virtue. Most of us are familiar with that pithy proverb. It is easy to quote, but much more difficult to practice. The ability to wait for something without becoming frustrated or anxious does not come easily to many of us. More importantly for believers, patience is virtuous because it is a fruit of the Spirit, one that is necessary if we are going to successfully live out the eternal purposes of God in this temporal and finite world.

1. A resurrected Christ induces a love for enemies.

2. A resurrected Christ inspires a fearless resolve.

3. A resurrected Christ informs a true righteousness.

In Acts we come to realize that our responsibility is to unashamedly preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our responsibility is to preach repentance as the mechanism for accessing the salvation that is freely offered through that gospel. We proclaim with patience the righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come that makes the gospel necessary. Only when we realize that there is an urgency for people to embrace the gospel, will we ever accept the fact that there is an urgency in Christ's commission for us to share the gospel.

For further consideration

What does Paul's defense teach you about how to respond to false accusations you might face for following Christ? Why is the resurrection central to the message of Christianity? How central is it to your view of your own life? In Acts 24, Paul operates out of a healthy fear of God, while Felix operates out of an unhealthy fear of man. Why is it liberating to live seeking the approval only of the Lord? Are there idols in your life that you still clutch or have you surrendered everything to Jesus? How would you rate your own sense of urgency with regard to gospel conversations or advancing the Great Commission? What if anything needs to change in order to escalate that sense of urgency?