



Daily Verse and Comment

Revelation 3:10

(10) Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

King James Version

In Jesus Christ's promise in [Revelation 3:10](#), the core issue is perseverance. The King James reads, "Because you have kept the word of My [patience](#)," and "patience" is likewise used in the other verses in Revelation. But "patience" tends to make us think of passive activity, which is not what the underlying Greek word, *hupomoné*, actually means. Greek scholar Spiros Zodhiates describes it as "constancy under suffering in [faith](#) and duty," and commentator William Barclay defines *hupomoné* as "having the quality to stand, facing the storm, struggling against difficulty and opposition."

Obviously, *activity* is involved; it is not just passively [waiting](#). It describes active, spiritual *resistance*—against [Satan](#), this world, and our own carnality. The most succinct rendering of *hupomoné* may be "courageous endurance." "Cheerful or hopeful endurance" is another good rendering, as it includes a degree of optimism—and when we remember Who is on our side and how this story ends, we have every reason to be optimistic while persevering.

To put this command into perspective, we must imagine what [the world](#) will be like at the time when this letter will be most applicable. A great [false prophet](#) will be active, and deception will be so widespread that it will threaten even God's elect. A powerful and blasphemous tyrant will encourage or even command worship of himself, and he will institute financial controls, such that commerce will be essentially impossible without paying homage to him. Yet, it will be our responsibility to be constant and unwavering under the suffering imposed by that system.

Further, it does not appear that the church of [God](#) will be unified at that time. Given the various prophecies that describe seven lampstands and [seven letters](#) to seven churches, it seems that division will be the norm within the church. Some of the letters in Revelation 2 and 3 indicate a low level of faith and a high level of carnality.

As Jesus says in [Matthew 24:12](#), "Because lawlessness will abound, the [love](#) [*agapé*] of many will grow cold." The world does not have any *agapé*, so He must be speaking of the church! True Christians will have to persevere through encroaching [sin](#) and dying love *within the church*. The temptation may be great to throw in the towel, to withdraw, to separate from the brethren because of [offenses](#), but doing so would be the opposite of *hupomoné*—of courageously enduring.

The New King James speaks of "the hour of trial," but the King James calls it "the hour of temptation." This is a fitting rendition because during that time it will be tremendously tempting to give up, to give in, to compromise, to let down just a little, to sin (just a little!) in order to make life easier. It will be a time of pressure like never before and thus very easy to become distracted, not just because of the blatant idolatry and religious deception, but also because of the world's increasing attractiveness and pervasiveness.

It does not have to be just a time of fascism and concentration camps. People will be eating and drinking and marrying—having a great time. Revelation 18's description of Babylon focuses on luxury and ease and the avoidance of suffering. Jesus warns in [Luke 21:34](#), "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and *cares of this life*, and that Day come on you unexpectedly." *Distraction leads to idolatry*.

Whatever the reality of that time, "persevering" or "courageously enduring" without compromising will certainly be no small accomplishment. Yet Christ says that because some of His people *have been keeping* His command to persevere, He will keep them from the worst of it. They have already proved their [faithfulness](#) to Him; He knows where they stand, He sees their track record with Him, and He will not require them to experience *everything* that the rest of humanity will suffer.

— David C. Grabbe

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