



God is calling us to a life of endurance that is sustained by our relationship with Jesus Christ. Now we all know that endurance requires patience, because our reward for the right choices we make today will come, but it may be months or years from now. I have to say that I struggle with patience, I want things done yesterday, so to speak and so if you drum your fingers waiting for the microwave to finish then like me patient endurance doesn't come naturally. Today we come across many obstacles that make us believe that endurance in the Christian life seems to be almost unattainable. Our temptations haven't changed from the temptations faced by the people we read about in scripture, we are all still the same human beings with all our thoughts and messed up lives.

However we have to say that televisions, computers, and even cell phones bring into our homes what used to be found only in back alleys. In our technological age, temptations are only a keypad or mouse click away. Failure to endure is seen in marriage, jobs, church, or in fact any part of life. It has sadly become the norm. I think that sin has become so common, so expected, that we as believers have started to lower our standards because

we think it is inevitable that we will fall short. But the foundation of the Christian life cannot change with the culture of our society. We are called to a higher standard my friends. God deserves so much more than what we actually give him. Paul's words to the Colossians and Timothy are words to us that we need to take to heart. We have to follow Jesus from start to finish.

We have to realize that when we sin we need to repent quickly and then move forward in our lives with a deeper devotion to our Lord and Savior. Yes, of course there will be dry times, hard times but overall, but our spiritual growth has got to steadily grow and take root in our hearts. Endurance is Christ's call to follow him, to finish strong.

There is no higher calling, no bigger privilege, no greater joy than running the marathon of life focused on Jesus. What does this mean then for you and me? Well, this follows on from my thoughts in Chimes about entering the Locker Room to get ready for the game ahead. Being a united family of believers here at First Presbyterian is vital for us to operate as a well oiled team. God is preparing us for this marathon called life. He wants us to bring more and more people on the journey but first we need to be fit enough to last the course. We can't drop out of the race when we feel like it because when we decide to rejoin everyone has gone on ahead.

When we sign up and commit fully to following Jesus we will need to be building our spiritual stamina and muscles. We do that together Sunday by Sunday, we do it in study of scripture together, we do it in our own private quiet time and we do it by exercising our faith in public and living it out. As people start to see us run the race of life with God they will be drawn to Jesus and hopefully to be part of his family here at FPC.

