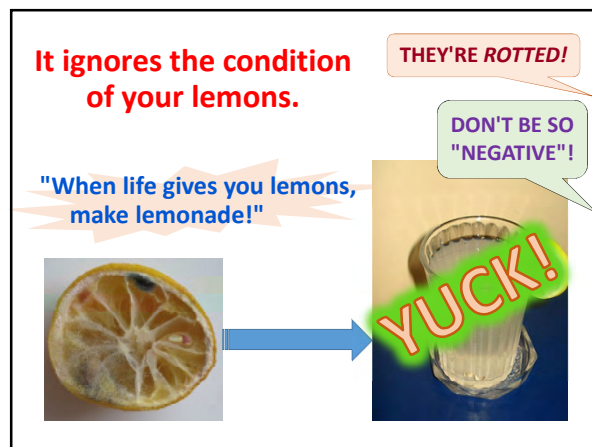


**LOVE**  
 Without Hypocrisy  
 (in the book of Romans)  
 14 – Patient in Tribulation (1)



**Sometimes ...**

- Life can only be described by words such as: *tribulation, trials, and affliction.*
- We may feel like the man described in the book of Ecclesiastes:

All his days he eats in darkness, with great frustration, affliction and anger.

Eccles. 5:17 (NIV)

### Meanwhile ...

The world tells us to "put on a happy face."

JUST BE "POSITIVE"!



### Our theme verse today is:

Be ... patient in affliction ...

Romans 12:12 (NIV)

### The first issue to look at is this:

In Romans 12:12, what is "affliction"?

- This word is also translated as: *tribulation, suffering, hardship, trouble...*
- But no matter how you translate it, *it is not pleasant!*

THAT'S FOR SURE!



Tribulation, trials, affliction...

These are "High-Pressure Situations"



I'M ABOUT TO EXPERIENCE A "HIGH-PRESSURE SITUATION"!



How should we respond in such situations?



TIME TO HIT THE "PANIC BUTTON"?



PANIC? NO!!!

We are to be patient in such situations!

Be ... patient in affliction ...


Romans 12:12 (NIV)



TIME TO HIT THE "PATIENCE BUTTON"??

**YES!!!**

**And that leads us to the next issue...**



Be ... **patient** in affliction ...  
Romans 12:12 (NIV)

**WHY "PATIENCE"?**  
**TELL ME QUICKLY!**

**God has given his people a promise – a hope that cannot fail.**

👉 We looked at this HOPE in previous weeks. 👈

Be joyful in **hope**, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.  
Romans 12:12 (NIV)

- Because of this **hope**, we can be patient.
- **Prayer** also has a role. (That's a future topic.)

**God's people have a guarantee – a knowledge about the final outcome of their trials.**

And **we know** that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.  
Romans 8:28 (NASB)

★ IF YOU ARE UNSAVED, YOU DO NOT HAVE THIS GUARANTEE. ★

**We will look more at this later...**

**— but —**

**One more issue for today:**

**Did you ever hear someone say...**

**"Come to Jesus, and your troubles will be over!"**

**If you did...  
THEY LIED TO YOU!**

**JESUS TOLD US SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT!**

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."  
John 16:33b (NIV)

- Jesus warns us that we will have trouble.
- But those who are in Christ (= all who are saved) will overcome those troubles with Christ.
- So we can take heart when trouble comes our way.



So, next time you experience a "High-Pressure Situation"...

↓

**YOU CAN REJOICE!**



HERE COMES A "HIGH-PRESSURE SITUATION"! IT'S TIME TO REJOICE!



**YES! YOU CAN REJOICE!**

- NOT in the trial ...
- BUT in what God is going to do!



I DON'T LIKE TRIALS; BUT I KNOW THAT GOD WILL ACCOMPLISH GOOD THROUGH THEM!

**AND... YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY THAT ALL TRIALS WILL BE OVER... FOREVER!**



NEVER AGAIN WILL IT FALL ON ME!

## Your Mission...

- This week, focus on our theme verse:

Be ... patient in affliction ...  
Romans 12:12b (NIV)

- When trials come your way, think about:
  - (1) God's promises, and
  - (2) How they apply to your situation.

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# Your Mission...

"Be ... patient in affliction ..."

**Romans 12:12b**

**AFFLICTION** - tribulation, suffering, hardship, trouble, etc.

**PATIENCE** - perseverance, endurance, steadfastness, etc.

## ***LIFE IS FULL OF TROUBLES!***

**There are two main reasons.**

- We live in a world that is filled with the effects of sin.
- The unsaved may add to our troubles (forcing us to endure anything from minor irritations to severe persecution).

**There are some types of trouble or suffering that God's people will *not* have to experience.**

- Many troubles are caused by a person's own sinful actions. When a follower of Jesus turns away from sin, these types of troubles will diminish.

**A person can *choose* to suffer or endure hardship.**

- Suffering and affliction does not always come as an event we must *passively accept* (the same way we accept weather changes). A person can *actively choose* to suffer ... *as an act of love*.
- Jesus demonstrated this, when he *chose* to die for us.

## ***WE WILL RESPOND TO TROUBLES!***

**Responding with patience (and other types of godly conduct).**

- God tells us that we must be patient - Romans 12:12b.
- Jesus Christ gave us an example to follow - 1 Peter 2:21-22.
- Other godly responses include thankfulness (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18); joy (Romans 5:3-4, see below); trust in God; etc.

**One's response to trouble is one of the ways we can distinguish between genuine and fake believers.**

- God's people, as they *grow* in their salvation, will *grow* in patience (and in the other characteristics of godly living) - 2 Peter 1:6 (and context).
- The fakes - "temporary believers" - will eventually fall away, unwilling to remain patient - Matthew 13:20-21; Luke 8:13.

## **Patience and affliction, mentioned in the same passage.**

- **Rejoicing while suffering** - Not because of the suffering, but because of what it produces. Patience is one of the things it produces! Romans 5:3-4.
- **Patience, suffering... and the kingdom of God** - In Jesus, *all* of these are ours - Revelation 1:9.
- **Two New Testament examples** - Paul and his associates (patient endurance during a variety of trials) - 2 Corinthians 6:4-5; and the Thessalonian church - 2 Thessalonians 1:4.
- **Our obligation to be patient in affliction** - Romans 12:12b.

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