Sound in Patience
Tit. 2:1, 2

Introduction:
A. As a part of sound doctrine, older men are urged to be sound in faith, love and patience.
   1. Patience is not the same as indifference, cowardice, laziness, procrastination or permissiveness.
   2. Patience involves waiting, endurance and persistence.
      a. In the face of provocation and delay.
      b. Out of trust for God’s precepts, providence and promises
   3. Patience is against American culture.
   1. Without it one may quit too soon or try to force results prematurely (cf. Sarah).
   2. With it we will eventually be rewarded and God’s way vindicated.
C. Patience is called for in certain important circumstances.

Discussion:
I. The Everyday Affairs of Life Call For Patience.
   A. In domestic affairs.
   B. In financial matters.
II. The Pressures Of Being A Christian Call For Patience. (cf. Rom. 12:12)
   1. Not accepting deliverance (Heb. 11:35)
III. The Preaching Of The Gospel calls for patience.
   A. In season and out of season. (2 Tim. 4:1-2).
   B. Waiting for the harvest. (1 Cor. 3:6).
      1. Without demanding instant results.
      2. Without trying to force results.
      3. Without giving up on one too quickly. (2 Tim. 2:24-26)
IV. The Operation of the Church Calls for Patience.
   A. Abandon good works too quickly.
      1. Support of preachers in difficult places.
      2. Long term teaching programs for edification.
      3. Try good approach to growth, abandon if not instant results.
      4. Discipline.
   B. Impatience with "getting things done" can cause:
      1. Abuses in organized churches.
         a. Lording elders. (1 Pet. 3:1-5).
         b. Circumvention of good elders.
      2. Abuses in unorganized churches.
         a. Assumed leadership rather than appointed leadership. (cf. 3 John 9).
         b. Oversight by default rather than by qualification.
         c. Resort to simple majority rule.
      3. Abuses in organized and organized churches.
         a. Rough shod treatment of brethren.
            (2) The elderly. (cf. 1 Pet. 5:5).
         b. Compromise principle rather than stay the course.

Conclusion:
A. Patience: time and persistence grow strongest crops.
B. Do not try the Lord's patience by procrastination.