



The Patience



of God



By Rev. Charles Svoboda

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" 2 Peter 3:9

INTRODUCTION

Yours truly has always marveled at the patience of God during the days when I was unsaved. A godly mother waited, loving me and praying for her son to come to know Christ as Savior. Christians zeroed in on prayer for me to get saved. Well it happened in July 1941. Now I marvel at the patience of God in my life as He speaks to me through His Word concerning the weak areas in my Christian walk. Note God's patience with Peter at various instances, and note the number THREE in each case revealing God's patience with him.

DENIAL OF PETER

Three Times

"And the Lord turned and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the Word of the Lord, and how He had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice." –Luke 22:61

- Peter denied the Lord three times and was later restored. –Mark 16:1-7
- Peter who at one time for a brief moment walked on the sea, rebuked the Lord, saw Moses and Elijah on the Mt. of Transfiguration, cut off the ear of the servant of the High Priest, was a very unstable man until he surrendered completely to the Lord. It's a new Peter in Acts 4:8-12. God patiently waited and worked on Peter.

DELIVERANCE OF A MESSAGE BY GOD TO PETER

Three Times

"He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep." –John 21:17

- Peter experienced a fruitless night in fishing (John 21:3) and then met the Lord who received from Peter answers of love and faith to His questions. It was then that the Lord God authorized Peter in the way of commission to feed His sheep. The Lord questioned Peter three times.

DESCENT OF A SHEET FROM HEAVEN TO SIGNAL A MESSAGE TO PETER

Three Times

"...heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven." –Acts 10:11, 16

- Peter received a message from God repeated three times revealing the fact that the Gospel was not to be limited to the Jew only. The vessel is a picture of the Jew and Gentile in one Church.

HOW ABOUT GOD'S PATIENCE WITH YOU?

How many times had the Lord spoken to you, dear unsaved friend, about turning to Him for salvation? Perhaps someone has given you a tract revealing God's plan of salvation. Perhaps you saw the way to new life in Christ splashed on a billboard sign along the highway. Perhaps you heard the way over the radio or TV, or perhaps from a loved one. How much longer will you hold off? Time is running out. You are but a heart beat from eternity.

How many times has the Lord spoken to you who are saved about a closer walk with Him? Your reading of the Bible, attendance at church, witnessing of His saving Grace, fellowshiping with God's people, prayer, giving to His work, has all slacked off. Why? Because someone has offended you? Serve Him, not man. Do all as unto Him. See it in 1 Cor. 10:31. Look at the center of the Bible, the BULLS-EYE verse of the Bible -Psalm 118:8.



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