

## **Matthew 24:13**

13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

I am amazed at how quickly we are seeing events spiral out of control. Protesters are driving their cars around Lansing, MI demanding their liberties back; some are having sit-ins at the governor's mansion in their states. Individual states are starting to ask for no-interest loans.

Right now, a barrel of West Texas crude oil is selling for \$19.40. That means that the oil companies are PAYING people to take this oil off their hands. Our economy is spiraling out of control; it's not a question of if our economy is going to go into a recession, it is how far down and how long will our economy be in recession, and will it even stop there. Will we end up in a depression? Only God knows the answers to these questions.

In the Greek endure means: to stay under (behind), that is, remain; figuratively to undergo, that is, bear (trials), to have fortitude. The definition of fortitude is: mental and emotional strength in facing difficulty, adversity, danger, or temptation courageously:

Thayer Definition: endure

1) to remain

1a) to tarry behind

2) to remain, i.e. abide, not recede or flee

2a) to preserve: under misfortunes and trials to hold fast to one's faith in Christ

2b) to endure, bear bravely and calmly: ill treatments

I believe that God is using these times to get His church stirred up out of our comfort zones. He is trying to get His church to quit wallowing in the kiddie end of the pool and to . . .

Luke 5:4-5

4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

God is trying to get His church out into the deep waters. The Lord is using these trying times to get us to launch from inactivity to action. We need to pray without ceasing; we need to fast with a purpose, we need to stir up the gift of God that is within us . . .

The Holy Ghost gives us the strength we need in the most difficult of situations.

Dan. 11:32-33

32 And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

33 And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.

There is going to be a people that launch out in these troubling times we are living in

and say, “The God I serve is tougher than the circumstances I face.”

I am thankful that there are people that have the attitude, I may have to “shelter in place” but that doesn’t mean I have to be “silenced in place.” Bible studies are being taught over the phone. There are people who are getting their first taste of Pentecost by free conference calls, or whatever other way churches are holding services.

We had a drive-in service yesterday afternoon; it was very well attended; there were people stopping on the street and listening to the preaching in the alley. They were honking their horns and waving.

There are reports like this and others that are springing up all over our fellowship. Yes, we are living in trying times, but if we as the church will just endure some hardships as good soldiers, we will see the miraculous.

RPS