**BIBLE - TRIALS**

***JOHN 16:33 – TEXT***

**INTRODUCTION** – In our text Jesus is informing his disciples that trials, tribulation and persecution will come to those who live in this world but he also tried to encourage us in the face of tribulation to be of good cheer. Since Jesus is our example in all things and he has overcome the world then it can give us confidence that thru faith in him we can also overcome obstacles that are placed in our pathway – **JN. 16:33 *-These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."***

In spite of the knowledge that we can overcome the world many times disciples fall away when temptation comes their way – Parable of the Sower – **MATT. 13:3-9, 18-23.**

Many will even begin to place the blame on God when persecution comes their way so that is why it is so important for us to engage in this study today.

***A CHRISTIAN’S ATTITUDE TOWARD TRIALS***:

1. **SHOULD NOT BE NEGATIVE** –
   1. **JUDGES 6:13** - Example of negative attitude – If the Lord is with us then why has all this happened to us?
   2. **1 KINGS 19:9-14, 18** – Example of Elijah – He thought he was the only prophet left in Israel. Sometimes we get that same type of attitude
   3. **HEB. 13:5** – Why shouldn’t we be negative? For the simple reason that God has said he will never forsake us.
   4. **1 COR. 10:13** – We should not be negative about temptations because God always provides us a way to escape we just have to look for the avenue he provides to us.
   5. **JAMES 1:12-15** – When we are tempted we can escape or we can allow the temptation to bring forth sin in our life.
2. **ALL CHRISTIANS WILL HAVE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS** –
   1. **2 TIM. 3:10-12** – Paul told Timothy to be prepared because persecution was going to come his way. If we are faithful to the Lord it is going to come our way also.
   2. **1 THESS. 3:1-4** – Paul warned the brethren at Thessalonica what to expect.
   3. **ACTS 14:19-22** – Example of Paul and what he suffered.
   4. **MATT. 5:10-12** – Jesus let his disciples know up front what they would face.
   5. **ACTS 5:40-42** – The apostles did not grumble but rather rejoiced.
3. **DO NOT BECOME DISCOURAGED** –
   1. **HEB. 12:1-3** – If we feel discouragement about to set in just look to Jesus.
   2. **PHIL. 4:13** – We might well ask the question, how did Paul endure such persecution – He looked to Jesus!!! I can do – positive attitude.
   3. **2 PET. 2:9** – Why look to Jesus? Only Jesus can deliver us from temptation.
   4. **GAL. 6:7-9** – We will reap if we do not grow weary.
   5. **REV. 2:12-13** – The church at Pergamos had tribulation but they did not grow weary
4. **PURPOSE OF TRIALS, TRIBULATION AND PERSECUTION** –
   1. **HEB. 5:8** – We learn obedience thru trials.
   2. **1 PET. 1:6-7** – The genuineness of our faith is proven thru trials.
   3. **1 PET. 4:12-16** – When we suffer as a Christian we glorify God.
   4. **JAMES 1:2-5** – Testing produces patience
   5. **ACTS 8:1-4** – Persecution produces opportunities.

**CONCLUSION** –

What is my attitude toward trials, tribulation and persecution?