

Hebrews 12:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Analysis

For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. The command 'consider' (analogisasthe, ἀναλογίσασθε, 'reckon up' or 'compare carefully') calls believers to meditate deeply on Christ's endurance. He faced ultimate 'contradiction of sinners'—rejection, mockery, false accusation, betrayal, abandonment, and crucifixion. When tempted to grow weary under persecution, believers should compare their suffering with Christ's, finding both perspective and motivation.

The danger is becoming 'wearied and faint in your minds' (kamēte tais psychais hymōn ekylyomenoi, κάμητε ταῖς ψυχαῖς ὑμῶν ἐκλυόμενοι, 'growing tired in your souls, losing heart'). Mental and spiritual exhaustion under prolonged trial can lead to abandoning faith. The antidote is fixing attention on Christ's greater suffering and perfect endurance. He faced infinitely worse opposition yet completed His mission without wavering.

This illustrates a fundamental gospel principle: Christ's work provides both example and enablement. We look to Him as pattern of faithful endurance, but also as the one who endured for us, accomplishing our salvation. His perfect obedience under suffering satisfies divine justice on our behalf and provides power through His Spirit for our own perseverance (Philippians 2:12-13). Meditation on Christ's passion both shames our complaints and strengthens our resolve.

Historical Context

Christ endured the ultimate contradiction—the sinless Son of God rejected by those He came to save, condemned by religious leaders who should have recognized Him, crucified by Roman authority meant to establish justice. The original readers, facing persecution from both Jewish and Roman sources, needed encouragement that their suffering was lighter than Christ's. Early Christian tradition records many first-century martyrdoms; believers needed endurance to maintain faith through extended opposition. Fixing attention on Christ's greater suffering provided both comfort (He understands) and challenge (don't give up when you haven't suffered as He did).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does comparing your struggles with Christ's suffering provide perspective on your current trials?
2. What specific aspects of Christ's endurance most encourage you when facing opposition or weariness?
3. In what areas are you growing 'weary' and need to renew your mind through meditating on Christ's greater suffering?

Interlinear Text

ἀναλογίσασθε γὰρ τὸν τοιαύτην ὑπομεμενηκότα ὑπὸ τῶν
consider For G3588 such him that endured of G3588
G357 G1063 G5108 G5278 G5259

ἀμαρτωλῶν εἰς ἀυτὸν ἀντιλογίαν ἵνα μὴ κάμητε
sinners against G846 contradiction G2443 G3361 ye be wearied
G268 G1519 G485 G2577

ταῖς ψυχαῖς ὑμῶν ἐκλυόμενοι
minds in your and faint
G3588 G5590 G5216 G1590

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 6:9 (Parallel theme): And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

2 Corinthians 4:16 (Parallel theme): For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (Parallel theme): Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Revelation 2:3 (Parallel theme): And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Hebrews 12:2 (Sin): Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 3:1 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

2 Corinthians 4:1 (Parallel theme): Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

John 5:16 (Parallel theme): And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

1 Samuel 12:24 (Parallel theme): Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

Hebrews 12:5 (Parallel theme): And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

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