

How does God teach us perseverance according to the following verses?

Romans 5:3 Suffering produces endurance - (so we are to rejoice in them - understanding that they produce this good, godly, holy quality)

James 1:3-4 testing of my faith produces endurance... endurance will have its perfect work - making me perfect + complete, lacking nothing

Oh yes. Time and trials. They make us tried and true. ^{↑ heartiness ↓ maturity} If we turn to the Lord and depend on Him during them.

What had Paul already told the Thessalonians that their perspective regarding suffering should be? See 1st Thessalonians 2:14-15 and 3:3-4.

They were suffering the same persecutions as churches in Judea suffering even as Jesus suffered at hands of His own people - those persecuting did not please God // no one should be shaken by these afflictions - we are appointed to it + expect it. ^{glorify}
Now let us consider the ultimate result of these persecutions. There are three recipients of three different outcomes.

Please read the following passage three times. (There is a lot happening here! I'm trying to help you sort it all out!) *can discuss if want to / need to... or*

1st Reading: Highlight (color #1) the description of believers who are suffering and what they receive. *to go to summary*

2nd Reading: Highlight (color #2) the description of the afflictors and what they receive.

3rd Reading: Highlight (color #3) the description of our Lord Jesus Christ and what He receives. *Q*

HCSB 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12 It is a clear evidence of God's righteous judgment that you will be counted worthy of God's kingdom, for which you also are suffering, ⁶since it is righteous for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷and to reward with rest you who are afflicted, along with us. This will take place at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with His powerful angels, ⁸taking vengeance with flaming fire on those who don't know God and on those who don't obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹These will pay the penalty of everlasting destruction, away from the Lord's presence and from His glorious strength, ¹⁰in that day when He comes to be glorified by His saints and to be admired by all those who have believed, because our testimony among you was believed. ¹¹And in view of this, we always pray for you that our God will consider you worthy of His calling, and will, by His power, fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith, ¹²so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified by you, and you by Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 recipients - believers - rewarded - unbelievers - vengeance - penalty