

Pastor Ron Case
6/24/12

“Enduring the Crucible”

“Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.” (Isaiah 48: 10- 11)

The Lord’s Work

Malachi 3:1-4 – (1) “...And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. (2) **But who can endure the day of his coming**, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. (3) **He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver**, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. (4) Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.”

Titus 2:11-14 – (11) “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, (12) **training us** to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, (13) waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (14) who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and **to purify for himself a people for his own possession** who are zealous for good works.”

Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are his workmanship (*poiema*), created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Key Point: Jesus is Perfecting His Own for His Ends

Response:

Receive the Lord’s Impartation

“For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes (*to rear up to maturity, train*) and cherishes (*to warm*) it, just as Christ does the church,

so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” (Ephesians 5:29, 27)

Resist Resenting Harsh Training

(3) “Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

(4) In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

(5) And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? ‘My son, do not regard lightly (*despise*) the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

(6) For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.’” (Hebrews 12:3-6)

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

Is Jesus, like a master craftsman, working on us? (Phil. 1:6; Eph. 2:22; Matt. 16:18)

How should I respond to the working of Jesus in reference to my life? (1 Peter 5:6)

Is God interested in “getting value out of us”? (Matt. 25:14-30; Rev. 21:26)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)