

it without question, but he would have enjoyed it ^{but} for a season. He would have enjoyed it temporarily. He chose instead to suffer affliction with the people of God. We have to do many things that are only for this life. We have to provide food, we have to provide clothing. We have to take care of our families. We have to do what is necessary for this life. But the ^{activities} ~~activity~~ that will last on into eternity, they are the ones that are vital, not the ones that are just for a season.

Then we have the word as I mentioned in two other places. Those are in Mat. 13:21 and Mk. 4:17. In Mat. 13:21 the word is translated by four words: "endure for a while." It is a little clearer in the exact parallel in Mk. 4:17 where it is translated slightly different. I will read the context from Mk. 4:17: "And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground which ^{who} when they have heard the word immediately receive it with gladness and have no root in themselves and so endure ~~fo~~ but for a time." The exact parallel of the words in Matthew; the verse is the exact parallel of the words in Mat. "They endure but for a time. Afterwards when affliction or persecution arises for the words sake immediately they are offended." There is a parallel to this in the last verse that we read of our passages that we are noticing particularly. "For in this we groan." It starts in vs. 17: "Our light affliction which is but for a moment." It isn't but for a moment. We may have 60 or 70 or 100 yrs. of suffering. Many of us would find it very easy, we think, to die for the cause of Christ. We would go out as martyrs. We would stand any amount of persecution for the Lord. ^{and be} ^{yes,} Yet how ready we are to keep quiet when a little bit of opposition might come to us. How ready we are to avoid a tiny bit of persecution or opposition today. How ready we are to be upset at losing a small bit of ^{the} pleasures we have in America which most other countries have not a tiny fraction of. Certainly 2/3 of the world doesn't have 1/5 of the material things that we have in life. But how we hate to give up this little bit and don't realize that our light affliction is but for a season. The things that are seen are temporal.