

but sits there and waits for the light to change. That is an aspect of the word. We are to be patient, longsuffering. We are to take what God gives us and receiving it praise Him for it. But in Old English patience had a wider meaning than this.

We read in Hebrews we should run with patience the race that is set before us. How run with patience? You can sit with patience, but you don't run with patience! Here is the other half of the meaning of the word. Today we'd call it perseverance. The Christian life is not like a sprint. It's not like a 100 yard dash in which we put all we have into just a tiny interval and then sit back. It's like a marathon or a long distance race. God wants us to have a perseverance. He wants us to press forward. Run with patience the race set before us. Have the temperance, have the self control, have the well-balanced attitudes toward all aspects of what God wants us to do, but have perseverance pressing forward to accomplish what God has set before us and patiently enduring the defeats that might come along the way, and to get the blessing. These aspects of patience are included in this word. To put it in modern English you have to say patience and perseverance because the Old English word covers both of these ideas.

And to patience godliness. Now it seems strange to put godliness here at the very end of these. You'd think godliness covers the whole business! I have not quite been able to figure out what the difference is ~~EXXXXXX~~ between godliness and the rest of these. The Greek word eusebeios occurs 14 times in the NT and 8 of them are in 1 Timothy. Now there's an interesting relation between Paul and Peter isn't it? Eight times in 1 Timothy Paul exhorts Timothy to godliness, and Peter uses the same word. I would sort of think it covered everything, but there may be a specific meaning there that with further study maybe Pastor Kaufmann will figure out and explain. I have not yet discovered it myself.

But he says to patience godliness and to godliness, brotherly kindness. I think here we hark back to what I mentioned a moment ago, about our being godly and appearing cold, unfriendly. We should show brotherly kindness even to the folks that do not show any thing of the kind to us God wants us to be kind to all people particularly to the elect. But He wants us to be kind to all people. And friend no matter how rude somebody may be to us or we may think they are, because often we are mistaken, no matter how they may seem, Peter says we must have true godliness, we should show brotherly kindness. But this brotherly kindness may be an external thing. It can be an attitude. But it's much better to have that attitude than not to have it at all!

For that brief time when I was selling books, when I would hear that there was a member of the Christian Science church down the street I always felt a little lift because I knew that when I got to that door I would be received with a friendly smile, offered a drink of cold water, sent on my way rejoicing, although they hardly ever bought any of my books! But it struck me that in most of these cases followers of Mary Baker Eddy, I believe they are instructed to put on a face of friendliness. They are supposed to smile. That is part of what they are trained to do. You might say that is brotherly-kindness. Christians should have that. It should not simply be the people in a sect who show that attitude.