



**PERSEVERANCE:  
"THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEIR GOD SHALL STAND FIRM"**

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*"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried." Why is this quote from G. K. Chesterson still relevant to our circumstances today?*

*Dig In*

**The true believer will persevere to the end!**

**Strengthened by Christ and believing his word (11:1-31)**

- Why do we need to know that persecution, even under the most tyrannical leader will never thwart God's plan of redemption?
- Do you know your God? Are you at all drawn away from the Lord's agenda by hard-charging leaders who may seem god-like in their status? How can you avoid getting misled by these "little horn" leaders that appear from time to time?

**Standing firm for Christ and fulfilling his mission (11:32)**

- This vision encourages the hard the work of rebuilding a place of worship despite strong opposition, violence, and political change. As we heard, the temple they built is the one Jesus went to in his day. Why do you think God prioritizes practical worship during the hardest circumstances we face?
- How is the work going in your life to maintain worship both in spirit but also as a practical and obvious expression of your relationship with God?
- What work, inside or outside of church, are you most regularly engaged in that is related to God's long-term plans? With this work for the Lord in mind, what firm conviction or position have you needed to take in order to remain faithful and stay on mission?

**Enduring hardship in Christ and embracing his purposes (11:33-45)**

- *Daniel hears about the abomination that cause desolation before it happened. If you think about it, that's about the worst thing imaginable if you longed to see the Temple restored and honoured by all. The people persevered in the work with knowledge that some future ruler would despise it. Daniel is told to look to "the end" beyond the completion of the temple, to embrace the purpose in the work. How does this vision help you take a higher perspective on what you're persevering through in order to keep Christ-first and central to everything else you do in life?*
- Even if others despise what you do for God, what do you want them know is most important to you?

*Break Out:*

*It is incredibly hard to stay under the difficulty of living for Christ when you're the only one who is. Pray openly about discouragement. Give thanks for anyone whom God has sent to help you persevere.*