

Wednesday's Wisdom

a weekly short note from Mike Minear

TESTING OF OUR FAITH

BY JAMES SMYTHE

Frequently in the New Testament a Greek word is translated "tempted," which could as accurately have been translated "tested", and the word translated as "temptation" could have been translated "testing" or "trial." Many of the painful experiences of life are actually tests or trials which actually make us stronger, better, more understanding people. God told His people through the prophet Issiah:

See, I have refined you, through not as silver;
I have tested you in the furnace of affliction (Is. 48:10).

James speaks of the positive results of such testing:

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perservance. Perservance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything (James 1:2-4)."

(Next week's wisdom will be considering the value and necessity of such testing to produce Christian maturity.)