

My son, if thou come to serve the Lord,
prepare thy soul for temptation.
Set thy heart aright, and constantly endure,
and make not haste in time of trouble.
Cleave unto Him, and depart not away,
that thou mayest be increased at thy last end.

Whatsoever is brought upon thee take cheerfully,
and be patient when thou art changed to a low estate.
For gold is tried in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of adversity.
Believe in Him, and He will help thee; order thy way aright, and trust in Him.

Ecclesiasticus, 2:1-6

ABBA ANTHONY said to Abba Poemen,
‘This is the great work of a man: always to
take the blame for his own sins before God
and to expect temptation to his last breath.’

HE ALSO SAID, ‘Whoever has not experi-
enced temptation cannot enter into the
Kingdom of Heaven.’ He even added,
‘Without temptation no one can be saved.’

The Desert Christian, Benedicta Ward,
Macmillan Publishing, #4 and #5, p. 2

Pearls from the Holy Fathers

July 9-15, 2012

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION MONASTERY
Brookline, MA
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