

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Faithful To The End

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The end? You mean this journey called life does not keep on going? I am young. I do not think about life ending. Maybe I should. Faithful? You mean I have a standard to honor throughout the entire walk of life? Does God really demand that I remain faithful to the end? If I cease to be faithful before the end, will God overlook my short coming? Just what is involved in being faithful to the end?

Jesus put it this way to His disciples: “*and ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved*” (Matthew 10:22). On one hand, it is hard to imagine the pure and upright principles Jesus taught us to live by would ever be the object of man’s scorn leading to hatred of the person who follows them. On the other hand, when a life dictated by God conflicts with man’s own desire to live as he would like, one can see why hatred would rise against those who are reminding them in their teaching and own way of life that they are falling short of the glory of God. Therefore, one must understand that in such a world, “*yea, all that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution*” (2 Timothy 3:12). Young people beware and get ready. When you do not follow your peers in the paths of revellings, drinking parties and drunkenness,

they will speak evil of you for not running with them and joining them in their sinful excesses (*1 Peter 4:3-4*).

The one living faithfully, must then “*endure to the end.*” One must hold up under the pressure of forsaking the way of righteousness and giving in to short sighted pleasures of sin or to the momentary approval of ungodly peers. It will not be easy but focus on the reward: such *will be saved* in the end.

Christians in the first century were facing death for confessing Jesus as the Son of God and Lord of their life. The persecuted brethren in Smyrna read their letter from Jesus containing this timely exhortation: “*...the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life*” (Revelation 2:10). In some cases, the “end” of the Christian’s walk is the strongest test of one’s faithfulness. Will I rise up and continue to confess Jesus as Lord even when it means I will be cut down with a severing sword? We must confess to the end: “*If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; if we shall deny Him, He will deny us*” (2 Timothy 2:12).

When one remains faithful to the end, the Lord honors him. In Pergamum, a man by the name of

Antipas is remembered in the following way: “*...even in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells*” (Revelation 2:13). The Lord not only knows the faithful ones by name but knows the difficult circumstances under which they live and die, striving to be faithful.

Paul spoke of being faithful to the end as “*fighting the good fight*” as he “*finished the course*” (2 Timothy 4:7). It is not fighting any fight, but *the good fight of the faith* (1 Timothy 6:12).

It is remaining firm in bringing up children in the chastening and admonition of the Lord when the world around us sees no absolutes and frowns upon physical chastening. This good fight is “*striving for the faith of the gospel*” when the world blasphemes the way of God. The good fight demands we stand up to the present “cancel culture” and strongly affirm the truth that marriage is between one man (male) and one woman (female) for life (Matthew 19: 4-6).

Faithfulness to the Lord and His faithful word is worth all the consequent persecutions because the crown of righteousness awaits us, if we remain faithful to the end (Philippians 1:27, 2 Timothy 4:8).