

## Encouraging the Unfaithful and the Faithful

Scripture Text: Revelation 2:10

This lesson serves a twofold purpose and therefore encompasses everyone in this audience today: please hear me out if you have not become a Christian and you are lost in your sins **or** if you have been baptized into Christ.

### **Part I: Encouraging the Unfaithful to Become Faithful**

Some important Scriptures to consider:

- A. Romans 11:22 – goodness and severity of God
- B. 2 Corinthians 5:11 – knowing terror of the Lord, we persuade me
- C. Acts 2:40 – save yourselves
- D. Philippians 2:12 – work out your own salvation
- E. Steps of Salvation
  - 1. Hear – Romans 10:17
  - 2. Believe – Mark 16:16; John 8:24
  - 3. Repent – Luke 13:3, 5
  - 4. Confess – Matthew 10:32-33
  - 5. Be Baptized – Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16

### **Part II: Encouraging the Faithful to Remain Faithful**

Where do you see **yourself** in 1 year? 5 years? 10 years? **Your family?** Summitville?

#### **1. “Faithful Unto Death” – Rev. 2:10**

- A. Church at Smyrna
  - 1. Only other positive church listed is Philadelphia.
  - 2. Both churches faced persecution, Rev. 2:9; 3:9-10.
- B. Receive a crown of life
  - 1. Greek: stephanos
  - 2. There is another word in Greek for crown and it is the word we get “diadem” from, a royal ruling crown. “... bring forth the royal diadem, and cros Him Lord of all.” (*All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name*)
  - 3. Stephanos – crown of victory, placed over the heads of the victor in athletic games.

- C. Scriptures with “stephanos” – 18x total
  - 1. 1 Cor. 9:25
  - 2. 2 Tim. 4:8
  - 3. James 1:12
  - 4. 1 Peter 5:4
- D. “Jesus Christ did not promise to deliver you from trouble but to deliver through our troubles.” David Roper

## **2. “Endure to the End” – Matthew 10:22**

- A. Context: the “Limited Commission”
  - 1. V. 1-5 – instructed to the 12
  - 2. V. 7 – Kingdom at hand
  - 3. V. 14 – preach, but keep moving
  - 4. V. 18-19 – before government
  - 5. V. 28 – who to fear
  - 6. V. 32-33 – acknowledgment by Jesus
- B. Endureth – Greek: hupomeno – have fortitude, perseverance – 18x
  - 1. Job
  - 2. Jeremiah
  - 3. Jesus
- C. End – Greek: telos – 40x – “the end” 26x alone
  - 1. What is this end?
  - 2. The end of our time on this Earth!
- D. Saved – Greek: sozo – 108x – to deliver or protect, be (made) whole
  - 1. Jesus is the only source of salvation.
  - 2. Our life can be viewed as a puzzle – we are missing pieces without Jesus Christ and His salvation!

## **3. How to Remain Faithful?**

- A. Study – 2 Timothy 2:15
- B. Preach the Word – 2 Timothy 4:2

- C. Try every spirit – 1 John 4:1
- D. Love Jesus – John 14:15
- E. Keep His Commandments – John 14:15
- F. Evangelize – 1 Timothy 4:5
- G. Love the brotherhood – 1 Peter 2:17

Where do you see **yourself** in 1 year? 5 years? 10 years? **Your family? Summitville?**

The degree to which **you** remain faithful affects your family.

The degree to which **your family** remains faithful affects your church family.

We will be judged by our obedience to Christ.

Will you endure to the end?

Will you be faithful unto death – “even if it costs you your life?” (Amplified Bible)

Are you faithful?

Yes – Remain faithful

No – Become faithful today by becoming a Christian.

Do you know what to do? Are you putting it off? Are you waiting on someone to personally ask you if you're ready to become a Christian? Let me be that person tonight – Acts 22:16.

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