

WORDS OF TRUTH

A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ

Volume IX ~ Issue XXXI ~ April 26th, 2009

<http://www.wordsoftruth.net>

Edited By: *Brian A. Yeager*



Sunrise Acres CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting at:
8625 Robert Drive
El Paso, TX 79904

915-525-5794

OUR MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:55 AM

Are You Visiting With Us?

If you are visiting with us, we want to welcome you to the Lord's church (Matthew 16:18 and Colossians 1:18). Our goal is to simply get to Heaven and to help you do the same. We use the Bible as our standard to govern what we do in our work and worship for the Lord (Colossians 3:17, II Timothy 1:13, II Timothy 3:16-17, and I Peter 4:11).

We welcome your questions and would love the opportunity to study further with you. Luke recorded a fascinating statement we all need to consider: "Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able" (Luke 13:23-24). We invite you to join us in being one of the few that are saved!

"He That Endureth To The End Shall Be Saved"

By: *Brian A. Yeager*

Jesus said this to His Apostles: "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 10:22). If you will notice, our Lord stressed the significance of endurance. In our country today few think about enduring anything. You can start something, but finishing is not that important. In fact, we see that our society almost revels in underachievement. The popular motto is, "it's okay to fail, just try your best". Well, that might be just fine if you're baking brownies for the first time, but your soul cannot fall under the category of underachievement.

Endurance is required of a Christian. We cannot just start the race, we have to finish it and finish it right at that! Notice the following Scriptures: "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway... Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (I Corinthians 9:24-27 and Hebrews 12:1-2).

How about your mindset? Are you a finisher? Our lives will tell us much about ourselves if we'd just step back and be honest in examination. If we are use to giving in and giving up, what do you suppose we will do when the going gets tough in our spiritual lives? Endurance is key to our survival as Christians. We cannot just start this race, we must also continue in the things we have learned of God (II Timothy 3:14). We must ENDURE!

You've Got To Keep on Keeping On

An old preacher whom I learned some things from use to say: "you have to keep on keepin' on". This man wasn't always right nor did he care to try and be such. Yet, from time to time, he had some words of wisdom that were worth keeping in mind. He's right on this point. We do have to keep on keeping on. Such is not true because an older preacher said so, but because the Lord our God has taught us this principle. Consider these inspired words which echo this principle: *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord... Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong... For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end... And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises"* (I Corinthians 15:58, I Corinthians 16:13, Hebrews 3:14, Hebrews 6:11-12).

We are in a constant battle against evil (Ephesians 6:10-17). It is easy to want to "take a day off" and just "let your hair down". But we must remember that evil never takes a day off. Sin never gives us a break. Sometimes there are "tax holidays" here in Texas where you can buy certain items without paying sales tax. Well, there are no "sin holidays" where you can sin and not have to pay the price (Romans 6:23). We must always be on guard and always be ready to stand secure in the faith.

Endurance Requires Being On Guard All The Time

Jesus once told Peter this: *"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren"* (Luke 22:31-32). He also said to Peter: *"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"* (Matthew 26:41). Satan is after all of us and we are required to be watchful (I Peter 5:8). When I think of being sifted as wheat, devoured by the devil, and giving into my weak flesh I get scared. Don't you? Well, that fear will keep us on watch. We will understand how vulnerable we really are and the heavy price we'll pay if we get caught off guard (Hebrews 10:38-39). Brethren, let's care enough about our souls to have patience [endurance]!

Love Your Own Soul Enough To Endure Until The End

Peter wrote: *"For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it"* (I Peter 3:10-11). The kind of life we need to love is eternal life. Eternal life is worth fighting for and holding onto (I Timothy 6:12). If you love your soul you will hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (Hebrews 10:23).

We know that good things are worth hanging onto. A good mate is worth difficult times. A good job is worth the hard work. What do we say about our souls when we'll go through more for the temporary things of this life than we will for eternal life in Heaven with our Lord? What is more valuable than remaining saved?

Conclusion

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise... Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (Hebrews 10:35-36 and James 1:12).

What must one do to be saved (Acts 2:37)? Hear and believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16 & Romans 10:17), repent of their sins (Acts 3:19), confess Christ (Acts 8:37), and be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins into the church of Christ (Acts 2:38-41; 47, I Corinthians 12:12-13, and Romans 6:1-6; 16:16). One must then remain faithful (Colossians 1:23).