

# **Be Faithful Until Death**

*By Ron Boatwright*

Jesus promises us, "Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10). If we are faithful until death we will hear our Lord say, "Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Lord" (Matthew 25:21). We must never give up for Jesus says, "But he who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 10:22). Jesus says we must be faithful to Him if we expect to go to heaven when this life is over. Those Christians who become unfaithful will be lost and tormented forever in the burning fires of Hell.

Satan wants us to become unfaithful so we will be lost. "For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them" (2 Peter 2:20-21). When one becomes negligent and lukewarm as a Christian, Jesus says, "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth" (Revelation 3:16).

When one becomes unfaithful and falls away, it is usually a gradual process. One who becomes unfaithful usually starts missing on Wednesday night, then Sunday night, and then Sunday morning. But we are warned, "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins" (Hebrews 10:25-26). One who looks back longingly into the world will probably go back. Jesus says, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). As one continues in the sin of forsaking the assembly, the blood of Jesus Christ will no longer cleanse a person of the sin of which he will not repent, and because of this he will lose his soul. Our soul is worth more than the whole world. "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

How can we stay faithful so we will obtain the crown of life? We can do this by laying, "aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us"

(Hebrews 12:1). We must endure and finish the race. We must never give up. "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Galatians 6:9). We must never lose our faith and confidence in the Lord. "Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward" (Hebrews 10:35). We must not become lax, but we must be even more determined every day. "Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure" (2 Peter 1:10).

This life on earth is so short and every person will be spending eternity in one of two places. Only few will go to Heaven while the vast majority will be cast into Hell forever (Matthew 7:13-14). We cannot earn our salvation, but by the grace of God we can qualify for it. God's word is encouraging us to, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58). Obtaining the crown of life should be our number one goal in this life. Missing Heaven is the worse thing that could ever happen to an individual. No one will accidentally go to Heaven. Only those who are faithful until death will receive this crown of life.