



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – February 26, 2017

Heart to Heart...

Have you ever had someone tell you the ending of a movie you haven't seen while planning to see it? It messes up the desire to go see it! When it comes to life, things are a little different. We want to know what is going to happen or where things are headed. In reality, we can never really know until we live through it.

But we do know the ending of our lives! It's placed right before us. We might not know the encounters along the way to the end, but we know the end. One thing each of us should realize is we will encounter things that will try to destroy our faith! You must arrive at your end being faithful!! **“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”** (Revelation 2:10) There is the promise of the ending, but it's based on the condition of faithfulness on our part. What does it mean to be faithful to Jesus?

To be *faithful until death* means we must be one with Him and live in that oneness. His word must mean everything to us while allowing Him to direct our ways. *Being faithful until death* is not simply believing in the Lord, but actively allowing His instructions and attitudes to be ours. *Being faithful until death* is being a husband that loves his wife as Jesus loves His church. *Being faithful until death* is a wife submitting to her husband as the church submits to Jesus, even if he is disobedient to the word (I Peter 3:1). *Being faithful* is active!! It is working your job for the Lord rather than for men (Colossians 3:23-25). Being faithful is trusting the Lord **“with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.”** (Proverbs 3:5). It's too easy to follow your own thoughts and feelings about matters. Faithfulness requires overcoming our thoughts and feelings by drawing near to Him to lead us into His strength and away from our flesh. *Being faithful until death* is about honor and thanks, worshiping God with His people and taking His Supper to proclaim His death until He comes. (I Corinthians 11:26) *Being faithful until death* is loving your brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus which means you love His church. It's active and shown. Faithfulness doesn't create division among God's people. Some never get that! *Being faithful until death* is having the proper attitude and submission to governing authorities (Romans 13:1-7). *Being faithful* is about doing everything, no matter what you eat or drink, to what you speak and how you act, for the Lord's sake and glory (I Corinthians 10:31/ Colossians 3:17).

The words of Jesus should ring in our ears: ***“He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.”*** (Revelation 2:11) There is a second death and it is for those who are unfaithful. The second death is the lake of fire (Revelation 20:14-15). The unfaithful, the vile, hard hearted, hateful, bitter, rebellious, division causers, and uncaring will find themselves facing a second death.

Being faithful until death is a must for believers. Jesus didn't die in our place for us to face a second death in the end. The crown of life is what He wants for us, but it is all conditional – ***YOU MUST BE FAITHFUL!*** It's been appointed for us to die once (Hebrews 9:27) but not twice. The first death is our natural death and it will not hurt. The only thing that will determine the second death is our faithfulness to Jesus now! What's most important to you? It's your faith and your faith response that will determine your ending. And we know the ending right now, don't we? Think about it!!!

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