

How to be faithful

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Introduction

1. Revelation 2:10
2. Some will be thrown into prison
 - a. The purpose will be to try us
 - b. The goal is the crown of life
 - c. They must be faithful, trusted, reliable in this kind of tribulation
- d. In this hour of temptation they were to be faithful
- e. We will suffer persecution 2 Timothy 3:12
 - f. It was said of Polycarp, when brought before the judge and commanded to abjure and blaspheme Christ answered, "Eighty and six years have I served him, and he never did wrong, how then can I blaspheme my king who hath saved me?"
 - g. Persecution is but for a moment 2 Corinthians 4:17
 - h. The Word of God encourages us to never give up James 1:12
- i. The crown of life is worth it all
- j. What does it take to be faithful?

II Discussion

- a. It takes dedication to be faithful
 - b. This is the idea of a living sacrifice Romans 12:1-2
 - c. We have made the decision to dedicate our lives to Christ Romans 6:3,16-17
- d. It takes discipline to be faithful
 - e. Paul had to discipline himself 1 Corinthians 9:27
 - f. Self-control must be practiced and added to our lives Galatians 5:23; 2 Peter 1:5ff NKJV; ASV
 - g. The rules have been set by God and we must live within them to receive the crown of life 2 Timothy 4:6-8
- h. It takes determination to be faithful
 - i. Determination is not the same for all people Matthew 13:20-22
 - j. Determination is not all by ourselves Philippians 4:13
 - k. Determination is seeking first the kingdom of God Matthew 6:33
 - l. Determination is abounding in the work of the Lord 1 Corinthians 15:58
- m. It takes diligence to be faithful
 - n. In our study 2 Timothy 2:15
 - o. In our growth 2 Peter 1:5
 - p. Yet we can become interested in other things and lose our diligence for God Luke 8:14
- q. It takes dependability to be faithful
 - r. This is the meaning of the word
 - s. Moses was faithful Numbers 12:7; Hebrews 3:5
 - t. Abraham was faithful Nehemiah 9:7-8; Galatians 3:9
 - u. Timothy 1 Corinthians 4:17
 - v. We can become undependable at some point in our life Peter, Moses, Abraham

III Conclusion

- a. The goal is to receive the crown of life, this can be had by being faithful
- b. We have discussed 5 ways to help us be faithful, are you?
- c. If not then come now

Sources: Old sermon preached in Dec. 2007; PC commentaries