Endure to the End!

by Wayne Goff

One of the necessary qualities of anyone who will be **eternally** saved is endurance. It is also a quality woefully lacking in many people today. Perhaps in our modern, fast-paced society we do not instill in the hearts of our children the concept of endurance, of sticking it out, of finishing the task at hand. When our children began something at school, especially extra-curricular activities, *we only asked them to finish what they started*. If they didn't like something, they still had to finish it out.

In Matthew 10:22, Jesus sends out the Twelve with miraculous power to the Israelites only ("Limited Commission"). He gives them very detailed instructions as to how they were to go into a community, preach and be received. He even tells them that eventually they will be delivered up to governors and kings for His sake. They were not to worry about what they said because the Holy Spirit would tell them what they should say on that occasion. He concludes His remarks to them by saying, *"And you will be hated by all for My name's sake.* ***But he who endures to the end will be saved****."*

On another occasion, Jesus is giving instructions to the apostles again about the coming destruction of Jerusalem which would take place in 70 A.D. He tells all of His disciples to watch for the signs of that coming destruction and to run away from Jerusalem when those signs appeared. The evilness of Israel was described with these words: *"And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.* ***But he who endures to the end shall be saved****"* (Matthew 24:12-13). Jesus expects His followers to be faithful to Him even when the entire country, or society, they live in turns to wickedness!

The apostle Paul commends those who conscientiously serve Jesus *"by **patient continuance** in doing good"* (Romans 2:7). And again in Hebrews 3:6 we read, *"…whose house we are if we **hold fast** the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope **firm to the end**."* Will **<u>you</u>** do it?

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