

Our Commitment to the Lord

Rev. 2:10

Introduction:

- A. Need words of Jesus in times of trouble (vv. 9, 10).
- B. Need words of Jesus in times of ease (cf. Rev. 3:17).
- C. Words of Jesus summarize our commitment to the Lord.
- D. Let us look at three elements of this commitment:

Discussion:

I. The *Nature* of Our Commitment — “Be faithful.”

- A. “The Lord does not require perfection, but he does require faithfulness” (Donald Camp)
- B. Faithfulness embraces several ideas:
 - 1. Having and practicing the faith (Compare KJV and ASV on Tit. 1:6).
 - 2. Trustworthy, dependable, reliable (Thayer, “Old Faithful”)
 - 3. Loyalty and fidelity.
 - 4. Is car faithful that runs half the time? An employee who shows up half the time?
- C. Our Lord is faithful (1 Cor. 1:9; 10:13; 2 Thess. 3:3).
- D. Our Lord rewards the faithful (Matt. 25:21-23).
- E. Responsibility for teachings belongs to the faithful (1 Tim. 1:12; 2 Tim. 2:2).
- F. Faithful are only limited by ability and opportunity.

II. The *Extent* of Our Commitment — “Unto Death.”

- A. “Unto” (KJV) and “until” (NKJV).
 - 1. Unto suggests extent — “even to the point of death” (NIV).
 - 2. Until suggests duration — To the last breath.
- B. Cannot stop short and receive reward (cf. Ezek. 18:24-26; Heb. 10:32-39).
- C. “Unto death” leaves no room for trivial excuses.

III. The *Goal* of Our Commitment — “Crown of Life.”

- A. Called crown of “righteousness”, “glory” and “life” (2 Tim. 4:8; Jas. 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4).
- B. It is a crown of victory for those who fight, strive and struggle.
- C. It is heaven itself.
 - 1. Compare 1 Pet. 5:4 with 1 Pet. 1:4.
 - 2. Compare 1 Cor. 9:25 with 1 Cor. 15:50-52; 1 Pet. 1:4).
- D. Every other goal in life must be subordinate to this one goal.
 - 1. Nothing should hinder it.
 - 2. Everything should facilitate it.

Conclusion:

- A. It not enough to just “get baptized”
- B. One must be faithful unto death.