

MESSAGE TO BELIEVERS

The Apostle Paul who wrote the Book of Romans, totally understands that believers go to heaven, un-believers do not. He understands what it means to be “saved” so when I go where I am going today, I am not talking to folks who do not belong to the Lord.

We are the Lord’s because He has given us “ears to hear, and we have responded accordingly” The issue of heaven is not in view with this lesson.

There is something however that is very important. What does Paul mean when He says in **First Corinthians 1:24** & following; “do you not know that those who run the race all run, but one received the prize. Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

Obtain what? The prize.

Verse 25 “*And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore, I run thus, not with uncertainty. Thus, I fight not as one who beats the air, but I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest when I have preached to others I myself should become DISQUALIFIED.*” Is he talking about salvation – no

He is talking about losing his inheritance. He knows that through the Old Testament, you could lose your inheritance.

The Apostle John put it this way in His first Epistle. **Chapter 2: verse 28** – *and now little children, abide in Him that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ASHAMED at His coming.*” The being ashamed has to do with our faithfulness in the things before us.

This is not a real popular opinion, but scripture teaches that Jesus obtained His inheritance through suffering. **Hebrews 2 Philippians 2**. Keeping on when it is not popular, nor seemingly proper. **Romans 8::17** tells us; “*and if we are children, then heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may be glorified together.*”

Paul then states in **verse 18**: “*for I consider the suffering of this present time, are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*”

Hebrews 6 11 & following says; And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence (diligence of what?) Well, the previous verse states, “that you have ministered to the saints (other believers) and do minister.

Continuing **verse 12 of Hebrews 6** and that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience, **inherit the promises.**”

You are saved, but whether you receive all of rewards that could come to you depend upon your being faithful until the end. Our behavior matters beloved.

Hebrews 3:14 states; “*For we have become partakers (born again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ) since (if) we hold the beginning of our confidence until the end.*”

Point being, hold steadfast, don't withdraw, stay in the fight, continue on irrespective of circumstances until the end, so you miss nothing regarding rewards due you. Finishing well is the name of the game.

A life of faithfulness is the goal.

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