

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
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“But he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”

(Matt. 10:22)

After just returning from the long journey to from Salisbury, Maryland, visiting the Snow Hill Primitive Baptist Church’s annual meeting assembly with Brothers Michael McInnis and Ralph Dale, I was provoked to thought by a scriptural quote that was made by one of the ministering brethren (as indicated above).

During our two days of travel to and two days in return, much was shared as we ventured down the highways from state to state. Our personal testimonies of God’s work of mercy in our lives and how we had been brought down life’s pathway in very similar paths etc. One thing that Bro. Michael and I talked about in our over 35 years of being acquainted was the number of previous professing brethren who have erred in the faith, whether by falling into the snare of immorality, or departing from the truth which they once professed.

We were taken back by the number of which were no longer ministering, fellowshiping, or professing a hope in the salvation of God by sovereign mercy. We discussed the impact that such falling away by those professing a (supposed) good profession of Christ all sufficiency then falling into divers immorality and departure of truth had upon their beloved children and acquaintances along the way. We talked about how a man who was a minister of truth for years and demanding Christian integrity from his children and living what they preached steadfast and upright as (supposed) brethren and then after their fall how devastating that impact was on their families and previous Christian acquaintances. Sadly, these professing brethren have wiped out all previous integrity and Christian virtue which had been previously demonstrated in their ministry and fellowship. Oh! sin and the ramifications its destructive power when it snares the (what appears to be) the most gifted of brethren..... Destroyed marriages, disrespect and rejection by children and former friends and Church members. Yet all the while we were conversing we both knew that we would fall away in a heartbeat apart from the KEEPING power of God’s sovereign love and everlasting mercy! Oh! if not for the GRACE of God there go I.

I can recall a close brother (I supposed, God only knows his own) who had ministered a message of free and sovereign grace that had caused me to weep with overwhelming joy of Christ's divine love for his elect children back in the early 1980s. Then, just a year or so later, I heard that the brother had been caught up in an adulterous affair with a lady member of his church as he sought to give counsel to her. Even after remorse before the assembly after its exposure, it was a short time when he resigned his pastoral care, left his wife and two teenage children, and left the area with his adulterous companion. What a shock to the Family! What a devastating blow to the church assembly and many other preacher brethren who had known him. This is JUST ONE of many that I have come to hear and know about over the past 37 years as a believer.

This man forfeited his profession before men, and was barred from ever preaching among anyone who knew him until this very day. What does it matter what a man professes yesterday if he is not walking in that profession TODAY! Dear Brethren and beloved Sisters in Christ Jesus, it is not what we had professed that makes the difference and causes our walk to be upright and valid among God and men, it is what we profess TODAY, TOMORROW and for the BALANCE of our mortal journey that makes us worthy of our calling! It is a true thing, "for he that endureth to the END shall be saved"!

I beg my God and merciful Saviour that at the end of my travels in this moral realm of sin and sorrow that my children, family and Christian brethren and sisters may say upon my departing, "He endured to the end with a persevering HOPE that lasted the duration!" Nothing else really matters when the death angel beckons us away does it?

*Respectfully submitted,
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