

“Endure Till the End”

Ecclesiastes 7:8

Well, when it comes to judgment of something, it is the end that matters; it is the fruit that comes of it that matters. So we need to endure till the end, we need to run and finish well. **“The end of a matter is better than its beginning;”**

1. **Consider the outcome of their conduct. Hebrews 13:7**
2. **The endurance that is required to finish well. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

1. **Consider the outcome of their conduct:**

Hebrews 13:7 – “Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.”

Hebrews 11:1-2

Hebrews 12:1

Hebrews 11:32-40

But even now we have those that we can look to, those who lead us, those who teach us, and consider the result of their conduct, and imitate their faith.

Hebrews 13:7

What about Saul, Solomon, Gehazi, Judas or Demas?

1 John 2:19

Colossians 4:14

Colossians 4:7

Colossians 4:9

Colossians 4:11

How would you like to be mentioned in a list like that? To be among brothers like that?

Philemon 1:23-24

~ So we see Paul calling him my “fellow worker”. He is being accounted for in a group of faithful servants. But remember: **“The end of a matter is better than its beginning;”**

2 Timothy 4:10 – “for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.”

Paul now identifies Demas as a deserter; he deserted Paul and really the Lord because he “loved this present world” more.

What is it in the present world that he loved more? It doesn't say. But it stands to ask; is there something in this present world that is luring you away?

1 John 2:15-17

But it's sad to say, that many are like Demas today. They have set their eyes on the allurements and the affections of this present world.

Our fellowship with God is broken, there is no fellowship with God, and in fact anyone who loves the world is an enemy of God.

James 4:4

So as a Christian, or rather I should say, the one who professes to be a Christian and believes that he or she is in God's good grace, in God's favor but is flirting with sin, hanging out in the world and building an appetite for the things of the world is truly deceiving themselves.

Matthew 16:26 – “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Hebrews 10:29 – “How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?”

We have to wonder how many lives were affected by Demas deserting Paul. How many people did Demas and others like Demas affect by their influence?

~ Deserting brings a great harm to the work of Christ. It has far reaching and lasting effects. Every Demas that deserts the truth, makes it that much more difficult for others to learn the truth or to be brought up in it.

2. The endurance that is required to finish well.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

We see that we must run with endurance, with self discipline, self control and we need to focus our vision on the eternal, not on this present world, where we could get tripped up and fall in love with this world, instead of devoting ourselves and loving the Lord with all our heart, all our mind and soul.

Philippians 4:13

Proverbs 24:16

Part of enduring is getting back up, learning to start over, to begin afresh, anew. 1 John 1:9

It's Jesus that keeps us from falling, and who forgives us when we do fall. So we need endurance in order to persevere, so we can glorify Him.

Discipline is required in our lives as Christians in order to endure till the end. Hebrews 12:1

Obedience is what will help us not to be entangled with the affairs of everyday life. Obedience helps us also play by the rules.

2 Timothy 2:3-5

Are you associating yourself with Demas' in life? Why?
What are you gaining with friendships with the world?
How is this encouraging you or me and others?
Can you count them in with a great cloud of witnesses?
Are you considering the result of their conduct?
Can you follow their example?
Can you imitate their faith?

Hebrews 10:36-39

Application: The application is to respond to what the Lord is sharing with you.

1. Do I make wise choices daily? How will my choices affect my family and me? How will they affect my relationship with the Lord? How will they affect my relationship with others?
2. What kind of friendships do I maintain? Do I consider the outcome of their conduct? How does this affect me? Am I truly fellowshiping? Or am I having friendships with the world?
3. Do I look to individuals that are a true blessing to the Lord? Can I imitate their faith? Do they have my best interest in mind? Are they challenging me to grow in the Lord?
4. Am I running well? Am I enduring well? Are there changes I need to make? Is there sin that I need to repent of? Am I entangled in it? Do I need to lay some weights aside so that I can continue to endure and run?

"The end of a matter is better than its beginning;"