*Thursday, July 14, 2011*

**The End**

1 Peter 1:13-14 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (14) As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: (KJV)

The purpose of these studies this week is to get us renewed, not only on what God has begun in us but what He desires to do for us to the end. Given the fact that we are close to the end it would do us well to gird up our defenses so that no weapon formed against us will prosper.

Luke 14:27-30 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. (28) For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? (29) Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, (30) Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. (KJV)

You’re not one of those people that always start a project but never see it through to the end, are you? That is the old nature and not one that will work any longer. Every day you need to spend time in the Word, and take up your own spiritual cross so that you can put an end to any hindrance or doubts of your lower nature. The last thing you want is to be a laughing stock of the world that sees Christianity as some fleeting emotion of a bunch of unstable weak people.

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, (4) Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, (5) For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; (6) Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: (KJV)

I have seen so many false prophets today who boast of head counts of those who they claim they led to the Lord. If you notice, Paul’s prayer for the people was not only the beginning of their walk but the fact that they would continue to persevere to the end. Paul knew how to build up and encourage God’s people because he himself knew how to stay built up and established in the faith. Are you confident of the good work that has not only begun in you but continues to grow and produce fruit?

Colossians 1:21-23 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled (22) In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: (23) If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; (KJV)

You know, the enemy will try to attack our mind, so that we will begin to doubt the fact that our Lord will never leave us nor forsake us like so many other people that we have dealt with in our past. Keep this fact in mind though, the spirit is willing, it is our fleshly nature that is weak and fickle, and will always be looking for a quick fix or the path of least resistance. Do not allow yourself to be moved away from your walk in the Spirit.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (KJV)

God does truly reward His people; not only in the end, but while you are here on planet earth as well. I mean after all, where else are you going to find any love, joy, peace, and contentment, as well as an elimination of all fear which tormented you in the past?

Galatians 3:2-4 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? (3) Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? (4) Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain. (KJV)

Basically what Paul is saying is the same statement that our Lord conveyed concerning those that would put their hand to His plow in His spiritual field, that they should no longer be looking back thinking they will find peace. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin; or another way of putting it is, vain, empty, and without the intended results.