

A WHOLE You in God! Part 7 - July 12, 2010

Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

This is the last segment in this Series! Yahoo! I can dance, dance, dance, dance, dance, dance, dance, all night! Seriously though my Friends! It has been an esteem privilege, pleasure and honor to have penned this Series through the Holy Spirit.

We end this Series with the imminent death of Paul also called *complete sanctification*. *Complete sanctification* begins at death or the Rapture, when the believer's spirit is reunited with his resurrection body. I shared as much as I could Paul's experience of *positional sanctification* and *progressive sanctification*, and we know with every beginning and middle, there is an end. We want to ensure we know our end is heaven-bound to be with God.

2 Timothy 4:[1] *In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge. [2] Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. [3] For the time will come when me will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. [4] They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. [5] But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. [6] For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. [7] I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [8] Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.*

The King James Study Bible stated Paul was freed from his house arrest in Rome in the spring of A.D. 63. He was imprisoned again in the spring of 68, having been free about five years. He may have been arrested in Corinth because of an accusation made by Alexander. Paul was tried by the city prefect, imprisoned, and sent to Rome where he was placed in a dungeon cell of the Mamertine Prison, from which he knew he would never be set free. His only contact with the outside world was a hole, about 18 inches square, in the ceiling of his cell. Through that opening passed everything that came to and from the apostle, including his second letter to Timothy, in the fall or winter of A.D. 67. He was beheaded in Rome in May or June of 68.

The King James Study Bible continues to state that the last words of people are particularly treasured by their loved ones. In 2 Timothy we have the last known words to flow from the apostle's pen. In a very real way, this epistle represents Paul's last will and testament. If ever there was a time to set the record straight, it was then. If Paul were going to make any complaints, he would have to make them then, for he was at the end of his life. However, in this letter, there is not one word of apology, explanation, caution, or

complaint. Paul used his last letter to deliver five exhortations to his son in the faith, which in summary tell Timothy to "keep on keeping on" just as he had told him all along.

My Friends, isn't this typical of a die hard Christian?! They don't stop. They don't retire. They keep pressing on until the very end.

I have a deeper appreciation for Paul's walk and journey. His letters were definitely Holy Ghost inspired and filled with so many revelations from God, and even in that God allowed us to feel Paul's pain and sufferings as well as get a glimpse of his humanity and clearly experience his uniqueness. Yet Paul remained faithful and committed to Jesus Christ, to teaching and preaching the gospel, to those who labored with him and served with him all the way to his imminent death.

In other words, I never got the vibe that Paul wanted to turn back to his old way of life even through his sufferings. Paul continued to express his gratitude for God choosing someone like him to share such Good News to the Jews and most importantly to the Gentiles. Truly, to God be the glory for God showing us that He can take a wretch undone like Saul and transform him into an apostle Paul.

My God! There is still hope for anyone who does not know Jesus as Savior and Lord. The transformation can begin today. The backslider can come home. Being a Christian, a true believer in Jesus Christ, is a way of life, a good protected life I might add. I ask you to seriously consider becoming born-again so that you can experience a full life in God here on earth and heaven can be your eternal destination.

Dear Heavenly Father,

I am a sinner and I need to be saved. I am sorry for my sins; please forgive me. I confess that I have lived a life not pleasing to you. I repent of my sins. I want a different life; a new way of living. Father, I believe that you raised Jesus from the grave with all power in His hands. I want you, Jesus, to come into my heart, my soul and my spirit and I want you to become Lord over my life. I do not want to live the life I used to live. Thank you, Father, for forgiving me of my sins. Thank you for a new life in you, a new start. Hallelujah! I ask also that you please endow me with power from on high as on the day of Pentecost. I ask that you fill me, baptize me with the Holy Ghost and with fire! Thank you for saving me and filling me with your Holy Spirit, Father! Hallelujah! Thank you Jesus! My transformation has begun! Glory to God!

We welcome you to the family of God in Jesus name! You have been given a new start. To God be the Glory! I encourage you to become affiliated with a solid Bible-teaching ministry and surround yourself with strong believers in the Word of God. We are also here for you!

May God continue to bless each one of you in the mighty name of Jesus!

Until the next time,

Pastor Andra