

“FAITHFUL TILL DEATH”

(Rev. 2:10)

“10 Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life,” Rev. 2:10. This is one of **two** churches in Revelation, 2, 3, in which there is no condemnation. The other church in which there is no sin is Philadelphia. These two congregations among the seven had no rebuke; or were not condemned with “sin in the camp.” From the time of their beginning they have stood the test of time and about the turn of the century, there is no sin too condemn either of these congregations. Now, there is this admonition for them to remain faithful and they shall **“receive the crown of life.”**

Sin can destroy a relationship with God and cause a congregation to be separated from God, *“5 And this is the message which we have heard from him and announce unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth; 7 but if we walk in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all sin,”* I Jno. 1:5-7. The fact of no sin in the life of this congregation, shows they have **fellowship** with God. To have fellowship with God is to say they have a **“joint participation with God.”** To have such a relationship with God is to acknowledge that this church is, *“6 Walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless,”* Lk. 1:6. Such a **condition** was a blessing for the congregation at **Smyrna** and **Philadelphia**. The Lord did not designate sin in their midst! When the Lord declared Smyrna **“rich,”** I understand the church is declared to be righteous, Rev. 2:9.

The expression: **“unto death,”** is noting a **“faithful”** life being lived, One should remember the Creator in the days of his youth, Ecc. 12; A life is to be continued when he chooses a mate in marriage, **“being “joint-heirs of the grace of life,”** I Pet. 3:7; **Children** are born, taught, reared and instructed in the way of the Lord, Eph. 6:4; Then there are the years when “grandchildren,” “great-grandchildren” are a reality – someone said, “If they knew how wonderful the great-grandchildren were they would have had them first!” Slowly but surely we etch toward old age and in all this we are to be **“faithful.”** The trials and tribulations in old age are not to be laughed at – heart aches, disease, old age itself, demand an ever vigilance on ones’ life, feelings, and concern for the future home – **“HEAVEN!”** All of these years, *Three score and three score and ten, also perchance fourscore,* Psal. 90:10. In all the events of life and in all the trials and tribulations we are to **“be faithful unto death,”** Rev. 2:10.

The expression, **“death,”** I believe it to have reference to the same death spoken of in Heb. 9:27: *“27 And inasmuch as it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this cometh judgment.”* This death I believe to be **physical death**, and so also in Rev. 2:10, This life is a proving place, to see if we are worthy to be in heaven, we should live our days carefully; because, while we are living on earth, no one will come from the dead to teach us differently, Lk. 16:27-31: *“27 And he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house; 28 for I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 But Abraham saith, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay father Abraham: but if one go to them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, if one rise from the dead.”* **This is the death spoken of in Rev. 2:10.**

The **“crown of life,”** in Rev. 2:10 may not be what you are thinking. We are not to receive a physical crown, such would not exist in a spiritual place like **“heaven.”** The **“crown”** received is **the life gained** by being **“faithful till death.”** I believe **eternal life is the crown!** We shall be crowned with **“eternal life.”** **Like the “crown of thorns” on Jesus head – it is a crown of thorns! So, in Rev. 2:10 we have a “crown of life,” the life is the crown!**

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