

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a Crown of Righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that Day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.” 2 Timothy 4:7-8 KJV



Paul was only able to keep the faith, because he was kept by God! His statement, *“I have kept the faith”* is a testimony to the preserving power of Almighty God! His *“crown of righteousness,”* and ours is NOT merited by any human endeavor or effort; not even belief. You believe? So do the devils, but they’re going to Hell! Jesus said, *“Without me ye can do nothing!” Faith cometh by...the Word of God. And that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works. Without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God.* Man will be judged by his obedience to God’s commands which they can only keep if kept by God. All men’s *“righteousnesses are as filthy rags!”* Believers are *“crucified with Christ: nevertheless [they] live; yet not [they], but Christ (God’s Word) liveth in [them]: and the life which [they] now live in the flesh [they] live by the faith of (obedience to) the Son of God, who loved [them], and gave Himself for [them].”* Any crowns awarded are based upon the deeds empowered by and performed through the faith of Jesus Christ. *“For if by one man’s offence (Adam) death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.”* Dear Believer, did you do something good, today? Then thank Jesus for keeping you! Choice is all we are afforded; the consequences are determined by God! I cannot choose sin and avoid death *“for the wages of sin is death! Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. To whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are...whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness”* No one in hell is there by God’s choice except Satan and his angels. Choices determine eternity! *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”* God’s only reason for delaying His return is to give men a chance to repent, but soon He will say, *“My Spirit will not always strive with man!” The Day of the Lord WILL come...in the which...the elements shall melt with fervent heat.* Did you plan on dying, today? Tomorrow? Perhaps next week? NO? So are you ready to meet your God? We have only one life and only what’s done with and for Christ will matter on Judgment Day!

Our life is kept by Sovereign hand,
His pow’r enables us to stand,
Those who choose His blest commands,
Are kept for aye by Sovereign hand! -CGP

Are you trying to keep the faith by your own virtue or by the virtue of Christ’s righteousness given to the obedient? Righteousness is imputed, put on the accounts of those that believe God. If you believe God you will obey Him. Disobedience confirms unbelief!

“For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.’ Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.” Romans 4:2-5 KJV