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PERSEVERANCE

Perseverance is defined as the act of sticking to a purpose without giving up no matter how difficult it may be.

Jesus spoke of the extreme difficulty of persecution we will face in the end times. He delivered details about the great tribulation in his sermon he delivered on the Mount of Olives as recorded in Matthew 24:4-31 and Mark 13:5-27,

He speaks of false prophets, supposedly men of God, who will give words by which many believers would be deceived. (Matt 24:11, 24; Mark 13:5; 2 Corinthians 4:13-25.)

In Matthew 24:21 he speaks of ***"²¹great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, nor ever shall be."*** How severe will this great tribulation be? ***"²²Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved. But for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."*** They shall be shortened to just seven years. That promise is repeated in Mark 13:20.

My friend, Jesus made it clear that we saints will be here through the tribulation. The church has been deceived by a "pre-tribulation rapture" doctrine not found in the bible.

Jesus promised in Matthew 24:13, ***"He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."*** Uh, the end of what? End of tribulation.

Matthew 24:29-31 says, ***"Immediately after the tribulation of those days..."*** several things will happen:

1. the sun and moon shall go dark
2. Stars will fall from heaven
3. Powers of the heavens will be shaken
4. The sign of the Son of man (Jesus) shall appear in heaven.
5. They shall see ***"the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."***

Then verse 31 further says that he ***"shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather his elect (rapture) ... from one end of heaven (all the heaven above the earth) to the other."***

Folks, that coming of Christ and the gathering does not come until that great tribulation is at its end. Jesus doesn't lie, no matter what your human preacher may say.

Endurance and perseverance are a must in order to get through this time. Some will not make it to the end. We must persevere and endure whatever hardship comes our way.

Are you prepared for that? Revelation 2:10 says, ***“be thou faithful unto death, and I (Jesus) will give you a crown of life.”*** Ephesians 6:18 also tells us a key. ***“Praying always... in the Spirit and watching thereunto with all perseverance....”*** Therefore, watch the signs of the times, praying in the Holy Ghost (tongues), that you may endure to your end.