**depravity**. If you have been saved without hitting "*rock bottom*", thank God! There were those who taught that in order to properly appreciate true virtue you must have experienced the very worst. Therefore they reasoned that you had to experiment or try the most wicked and defiled things in order to appreciate the most lovely and pure. This led to people "*exploring*" the depths of Satan. The "*mystery cults*" and the "*secret societies*" were portals to darkness. The Lord tells them that He will not burden them with anything but to "*hold fast*" to that which they had already. What would that have been? It would have been sound **doctrine** or teaching.

**Vs. 25**: To those who read this verse in the "*church age*", the phrase, "...*till I come*." would seem to refer to the rapture of the church. (**1 Thess. 4; 1 Cor. 15**) However, for those reading this after the rapture, in the midst of the Tribulation, that phrase, "*till I come*", would refer to Christ's return to the earth at the end of the Tribulation.

Notice that in **Vs. 26** a **conditional** promise is given. To those who **overcome** and **keep His works** **unto the end**, to them will He give, power over the nations. They will rule the nations with a rod of iron. For those who are in the "*church age*" we are overcomers in Christ. (**1 John 4:4; 5:4-5**) Those who suffer with Him in this age will reign with Him in the Millennium. Those who deny Him in this age (and there are believers who do) will not reign with Him. He will deny them that privilege. He will not deny the selfish believer salvation because He cannot deny Himself. And, our salvation is in Him!

**2Ti 2:11** *It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:*

**:12** ***If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us*:**

**:13** *If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself*.

So, the promise is conditional for the “church age” believer based upon his faithfulness and willingness to suffer for Christ. It has nothing to do with his salvation.

The promise for the Tribulation saint is conditional on his being faithful to the end of the Tribulation, until the Lord returns to the earth. It involves not only the privilege of reigning with Him but salvation or deliverance itself. It is a combination of faith and works. "*Keepeth my works unto the end*". That expression has to do with the end of a period of time not an individual's life. (Although many Tribulation saints will lose their lives.) Look how that expression, "*unto the end*" is used in other places in reference to the end of the Tribulation.

**Mat\_24:13** *But he that shall endure* ***unto the end,*** *the same shall be saved*.

**Mar\_13:13** *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure* ***unto the end****, the same shall be saved*.

**Heb\_3:6** *But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm* ***unto the end***.

**Heb\_3:14** *For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast* ***unto the end***;

Those Tribulation saints who lose their lives for Christ or are able to stay faithful to the end of the Tribulation will reign with Him.

**Rev 12:11** *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death*.