

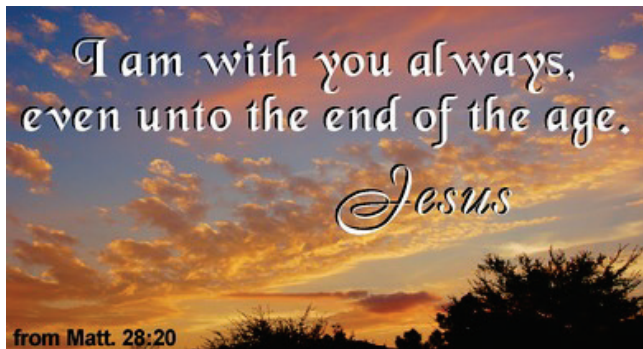
“Son” Flowers... A Devotional by the members of New Hope Church in Cooper, TX

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Scripture Verse Reference: Matthew 28:20 “...’and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

To the End...

Among my many pet peeves, I hate it when I start something and don’t see it to conclusion. I get irritable, angry with myself, and then at others sometimes; but I always do my best to finish everything I start. I’m glad our Savior doesn’t have that problem. I sometimes wish He hadn’t blessed me with whatever form of OCD it is that doesn’t allow me to leave things unfinished. Thinking about it, maybe my compulsive need to complete things is a blessing for which I should be thankful. For as Christ charged His disciples at Galilee after His resurrection, I too am driven to finish the work I start. Fortunate for all Christians, we always have Christ with us to ensure we do not have to complete our works without Him. Jesus promised His disciples He would always be there for them as they brought the message of salvation to the world—even to the end of time.



What a wonderful promise; to know that upon becoming a child of God, an heir to His throne, He will be with us always. As wonderful as this knowledge is, the amazing part is He is with us even in our failures. With a sincere request, He is faithful to forgive us; and eager to help us find our way back onto the path of righteousness. What a great joy; knowing we are never alone! This knowledge brings great responsibility. As

Christians, we—more than any other—should understand that when we sin we rebel against our Savior’s teachings, the Father’s commandments, and ourselves. We choose not to finish God’s primary purpose for us—becoming salt and light to others so they might see His love through our witness.

Like some projects in the past, I find the end (the completion) is deciding the task I sought to do is unachievable or will not bring about the results I expected. I end the project so I may begin another. Being a Christian though—if we truly accepted Christ—I do not believe we can contradict ourselves and end our salvation. God began a work in us and if we are faithful to Him, then through our sanctification, He will see us through. This is why when we sin; we feel regret (the grieving of the Holy Spirit [Ephesians 4:30].) Before my salvation, I cannot remember any regret when I sinned. After my salvation, I often sense I am about to do wrong before I sometimes dive headfirst into my sin. When I don’t sense that, and it happens (ever hit your thumb with a hammer), I immediately regret my words or actions. Upon returning to my senses, I ask forgiveness even though I know my (then future) sin was already forgiven.

What peace and joy comes from knowing our Savior stands ready to intercede with the Father on our behalf. What comfort comes from knowing whatever we face in this life, as Christians, we will never face it alone—“... *to the end of the age.*”