

**Devotional Thought**  
*Week of May 12, 2008*

THEME: "It's Not Over until God Says It's Over"

**"I am the Alpha and Omega", says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, to Almighty"**  
*Revelation 1:8*

The Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Jesus says that he is the Alpha and the Omega -- and all the letters in the between. If you are going to communicate with God the Father, you will have to go through the Son, Jesus Christ. In the Greek alphabet the Omega is not spelled out as is the Alpha. Why? Biblical scholars believe that the Alpha is spelled out because Christ is the beginning, and the beginning is already completed. But the end is yet to be; so He didn't spell out the Omega. One day when He has completed God's program the Omega will be spelled out. This is a very interesting detail in the Greek text.

A stretch of the imagination leads me to believe that this scripture suggest that nothing will be over until God says it's over.

You may be in a situation that looks hopeless, it may look like the end is near and it's time to give up, it may look as if you've lost... well, it doesn't matter what it may look like, the final outcome will come when God says it's over. Man may count you out, the enemy may tell you you've lost, the chance for victory may look impossible, but it's not over until the Lord says it's over. Don't lean to your own understanding and think that just because it looks like it's over that it is... it may not be... it's not over unless the Lord says it's over. So, don't throw in the towel too soon, don't "pull the plug", don't surrender, and don't give up unless the Lord has said that it's over.

Jarius thought it was over - his daughter was dead - but God hadn't said it was over. The man at the pool of Bethesda thought it was over because he couldn't make it into the water, but God didn't say it was over. Everyone thought it was over for Daniel when he was thrown into the lion's den, but God didn't say it was. Nebuchadnezzar thought it would be over for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, but God said it wasn't over. Job's wife thought it was over and encouraged her husband to curse God and die, but the Lord didn't say it was over. Jesus hung on the cross until the Father said it was over, and when He did.... Jesus said it is finished -- it is over.

Whatever trial and difficulties you may be called to face; however deep your valley; however day your midnight -- remember, the Psalmist told us "weeping may last for a night, but Joy comes in the morning." It's not over until God says it's over.

Have a blessed week. Let the Lord determine when it's over.... not your situation, not your feelings, not the enemy or anything else.

*Reverend Dr. James E. Russell, Jr.*  
*Presiding Elder*