



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

“A TRUSTWORTHY STATEMENT” PART ONE- 2 TIMOTHY 2:11-13

COLORADO

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The motivation for Paul's ministry always focused on Jesus Christ and the preeminence of Christ was the driving force behind his life and work. He understood the importance of keeping this truth in the forefront of life and work. It would enable Timothy and every believer to endure through hardships of every kind. Paul has reminded us that we must be single-minded in our devotion to Christ like a soldier who only wants to please his commander, disciplined as an athlete and labor like a hard working farmer. Live like this and you will have what's needed to be strong in grace guarding the treasure, disciplined through challenges, diligent throughout hardships and invested in lives for eternity's sake!

Just as Paul invites Timothy to be courageous, so too all believers are called to such action as we take the gospel to the world. As we remember Jesus Christ: the Son of God risen from the dead and the Son of Man descendant of David, may we have the same unshakable confidence in Him and willingness to suffer for His sake. Only by these truths of the gospel message can people be saved and reconciled to God. The power of the gospel cannot be restrained by opposition or censure. Nothing can ever keep the Word of God from going forth and accomplishing what He intends. And the Christian can be certain that after the effort of this life there comes the joy of heaven; and the greater the struggle, the greater the joy.² There is no sacrifice, mockery, alienation, rejection, desertion, imprisonment or even death too high a price to pay to put everything on the line for Christ. The importance and the rewards of a faithful life and ministry, not to mention the honor and glory of the Lord we trust and serve, far outweigh any personal sacrifice our trust and service may require.³

I. “A TRUSTWORTHY STATEMENT” – PART ONE 2 TIMOTHY 2:11-13

2 Timothy 2:11-13: “(11) It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; (12) If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; (13) If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.”

As Paul brings this section to a conclusion, he reminds every believer of comforting promises to those who are true and faithful and concludes with sobering promises to those who are faithless and false. May these words of encouragement and warning not fall on deaf ears.

A. “A TRUSTWORTHY STATEMENT” - 2 TIMOTHY 2:11A

This is one of five trustworthy statements Paul gave in his writings. (1 Timothy 1:15, 3:1, 4:9-10 and Titus 3:4-8) A “trustworthy statement” was a truth commonly known and believed. It was a faithful saying, an accepted fact, an accurate reflection. Paul meant to exhort all with these faithful words in light of increasing persecution and martyrdom against the church of Jesus Christ. The four statements that follow are first class conditional clauses in the Greek beginning with “if”.

Each clause expresses a reality, an acceptable fact and not just a possibility. It would be like saying “if and it is true”. The beginning of each clause describes an action or position and each conclusion presents the results of that action. The initial two sayings describe positive actions with the final two sayings referring to negative actions.⁴ Again, each statement expresses a truth, a reality as an accepted fact that can be counted on. What comfort the first two faithful sayings would bring to all true believers who were enduring through intense persecution. Some were about to die for Christ as Paul. And what sobering warnings the second two promises would present for all those who are without true saving faith. What are these trustworthy sayings?

B. “FOR IF WE DIED WITH HIM, WE SHALL ALSO LIVE WITH HIM”-2 TIMOTHY 2:11B

Paul begins with “For if we died with Him”. Again, the clause assumes the condition to be a reality, not hypothetical. First Paul expresses the truth that believers have died with Jesus Christ. The verb, “we died” refers to a completed action in the past that ties to the next phrase that we will in the future live with Him.

Clearly, Romans 6:4-5 reveals every believer’s spiritual participation in Christ’s death and resurrection at the moment of salvation. When Christ died on Calvary for our sin, God identified us with Him and accounts His death as our death. By this identification with Christ, His resurrection meant new life for believers as well. This new life is our present reality, our present possession and is eternal, eventually enjoyed in His presence.⁵ It is said that before the crown, there must be the cross. Our Lord spoke about the cost of discipleship in Matthew 16:24-25, “Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it.’” We inherit Christ’s cross, yes, but Paul also reminds every believer that we inherit our Lord’s resurrection and new life with Him eternally as well.

Paul wants to assure those who face persecution and death for Christ’s sake. It will for sure result in eternal life in His presence. Every believer can be assured that a new life in Christ will bring affliction from an unbelieving world! Just think about the Christians in the Middle East right now who are suffering martyrdom for their faith in Jesus Christ. They will live with Christ! They not only partner in the cross, but the glory of our Lord as well. The martyr’s hope as all true believers is eternal life after death. Paul did not want any to lose sight of this faithful promise in light of the present suffering.

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

Colorado

“A TRUSTWORTHY STATEMENT” PART ONE- 2 TIMOTHY 2:11-13

(11) *“It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; (12) If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; (13) If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.”*

There is another sense to consider, another kind of dying. It is a dying to self. When we belong to Christ, we die to the claims of this world, and to the claims of our own love of ease and comfort make upon us. We desire first and foremost to live for Christ and with Christ.⁶

There must have been great comfort to be reminded and affirm the certainty that *“if we died”* (and we have), then we shall also live with Him. Especially for those who would be martyred, for truly Paul had those in mind here.

C. “IF WE ENDURE, WE SHALL ALSO REIGN WITH HIM”- 2 TIMOTHY 2:12A

Now Paul moves from suffering to present endurance. A new life in Christ will bring affliction. By stating, *“If we endure”*, Paul’s assumption is that this is a truth. This condition is a reality. They are enduring. Paul is saying, *“if you endure, and you are”*.

“endure” Greek **“hupomeno”** speaks of continual, patient, present endurance, bravely bearing up under hardship, remaining under the load of adversity,

Paul speaks here of those believers who are bravely bearing up under the hardship which comes as a result of their relationship to Christ. He is referring to those who remain loyal and faithful through suffering. We may have to submit to persecution and hardship now, but the future holds not only life, but exaltation in the presence of Christ for all who are loyal.

We must remember that we are secured in our salvation and preserved for our future glorification with Him forever. Paul speaks to the faithful service to Christ as well as the perseverance of the saints through trials and difficulties of all kinds. Sure there may be failures along the way. Look at Peter who denied our Lord three times before going to the cross. (Mark 14:66-72) Yes this was a temporary, cowardly failure to stand for Christ. We can all do that when we don’t declare our love for Christ to others. But when Peter was confronted by the cost of discipleship, did he demonstrate a lack of true saving faith? No for his response to his denial of the Lord was that he wept bitterly and repented. (Matthew 26:75) Then after Pentecost, Peter’s courage, boldness and willingness to face any hostility became legendary. (Acts 1:5, 2:4, 14-36, 3:1-6, 12-26, 4:1-4,8-13, 21, 31) Peter died a martyr’s death in the end requesting to be hung upside down because he didn’t see himself worthy to be hung like his Lord. Peter was faithful in the face of death. He endured.⁷

So the future for every believer holds life in the presence of Christ as the promise for such endurance is that *“we shall also reign with Him.”*

“reign” Greek **“sumbasileuo”** to rule as a king.

What a wonderful promise for all believers. We will together with Christ reign with Him in His eternal kingdom. (Luke 22:29-30, 1 Corinthians 6:2-3, Romans 5:17) God will reward loyalty and faithfulness. He will reward perseverance and endurance in this life. Endurance for Christ will be worth bearing in light of coming glory.

Being a Christian has never been easy. While Paul has in mind the suffering and persecution that believers were enduring, many of us have not been asked to sacrifice to that extent. But what about your situation? Nothing in our society encourages a person to live for Christ and to seek to live a holy life. Ours is a soft flabby society which is superficial, loves to be entertained, lacks seriousness about eternal values, and is cushioned against any kind of endurance and self-sacrifice. But if, in spite of that prevailing attitude, we remain faithful to our spiritual convictions and endure with Christ, then we shall one day reign with Him in glory. That is what Christ meant when He said, *“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”* (Matthew 5:5). That is at Christ’s return, we shall reign with Him in the new heaven and the new earth.⁸

These are wonderful promises that every believer can rest in. No matter what this life brings, God will reward loyalty and faithfulness. So in the midst of hardship, trials of any kind, or persecution for your faith in Jesus Christ; endure and bravely bear up under that hardship, that cross. Believers who persevere give evidence of the genuineness of their faith. These trustworthy promises are for those who are true and faithful.

¹Hughes, R. Kent and Chapell, Bryan, *1 and 2 Timothy and Titus; To Guard the Deposit*. Crossway Books: Wheaton, Illinois, 2000. Pg. 197.

²Barclay, William, *The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 1956, revised 1975 and 2003. Pg.183.

³MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.54-55.

⁴Lea, Thomas D., Griffin, Jr., Hayne P., *The New American Commentary Volume 34: 1, 2 Timothy, Titus*. B&H Publishing Group: Nashville, TN, 1992. Pg. 209.

⁵Hughes, R. Kent and Chapell, Bryan, *1 and 2 Timothy and Titus; To Guard the Deposit*. Crossway Books: Wheaton, Illinois, 2000. Pg. 263-64.

⁶Williams, Peter, *Opening Up 2 Timothy*. One Day Publications: Ryelands Road, Leominster, New Zealand, 2007. Pg. 52.

⁷MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.64-65.

⁸Williams, Peter, *Opening Up 2 Timothy*. One Day Publications: Ryelands Road, Leominster, New Zealand, 2007. Pg. 52.