



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

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

COLORADO

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Being a Christian has never been easy. While Paul has in mind the suffering and persecution that believers were enduring during his day as he writes this letter, many of us have not been asked to sacrifice to that extent. In our country there are few things left anymore in our society that encourages a person to live for Christ and to seek 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.¹ We must be ever vigilant to remain faithful to our spiritual convictions and endure with Christ. Then, as believers we have the certain hope of living with Christ eternally in heaven.

I. “A TRUSTWORTHY STATEMENT”- PART TWO - 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.”

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 faithful and loyal.

These verses in 2 Timothy 2:11-13 are one of five trustworthy statements Paul gives in his epistles. (The rest can be found in: 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.

You will remember from our previous study that each statement Paul writes that begins with “if” are first class conditional clauses in the Greek.. 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.² This study will concentrate on 2 Timothy 2:12b-13.

A. “IF WE DENY HIM, HE WILL ALSO DENY US”- 2 TIMOTHY 2:12B

The second two promises present two sobering warnings for all those who are without true saving faith. These too are trustworthy sayings that express a truth, a reality as an accepted fact that can be

counted on. What does it mean to deny Christ? We know many do. Is it possible to profess belief in Jesus Christ and yet not be saved?

“deny” Greek “arneomai” to renounce, to reject, to give up

This verb is used also used in Acts 3:13, Titus 1:16 and 2 Peter 2:1. Since it is future tense, it implies that some who call themselves Christians will deny Christ in the future. If we would deny Christ, and some will, then the consequence is clear, “He will deny us.” In Matthew 10:33, Jesus uses the same word when He says this, “But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father Who is in heaven.” This may sound harsh and is a dreadful possibility to contemplate, but our Lord, and Paul, wants there to be no confusion about His promise to those who will deny Him. Christ will likewise deny them.

So is it possible to profess to believe in Jesus Christ and yet not be saved? In the parable of the sower and the seed, Jesus gives us an example found in Mark 4, of how the seed is the Word of God that is sown in the soil of our lives, our hearts. The seed falls on many types of soil but it really only grows and takes root in good ground prepared soil. Mark 4:16-17 speaks to the seed that falls on rocky soil and when hearing the Word, they receive it with joy but have no solid roots and are temporary. This refers to the one who when things get tough, when persecution arises or you may have to make a stand for your faith, they immediately fall away. Christ is disowned by these when there is any real cost. Jesus is renounced, given up because there was no true repentance, no true salvation. There was an outward profession of faith for a time without any true, inward conversion. They follow Christ for a little while, maybe they go to church and were even baptized. Maybe they have a Bible in their possession and are even a good person. They follow Christ for a while but there is no true inward change of their heart. When difficulty arises, they leave Him. Many followed Christ for a while and many still do. When Jesus began His ministry, He was very popular and multitudes followed Him until He began to teach about a true relationship with God and the cost. John 6:60 sadly recounts what began to happen, “Many therefore of His disciples, when they heard this said, ‘This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?’” And later it was said that they withdrew and followed Christ no more. (John 6:66)

Our Lord is clear that “if we deny Him, He will also deny us.” Jesus said in Matthew 10:33, “Whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father Who is in heaven.” This is an ominous warning to all. Our Lord will not have anything to do with the one who had

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(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.”*

nothing to do with Him on this earth. Hear His words from Matthew 7:21-23, *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’”* The promise to those who deny Christ is that Christ will likewise deny them. Paul doesn’t stop there, but goes on.

B. “IF WE ARE FAITHLESS”-2 TIMOTHY 2:13A

Some would interpret this to mean that one’s faith is weak. I too would like to interpret it this way. But what does faithless mean?

“faithless” Greek **“apistoumen”** means not to believe, implies a continual state of unbelief, lack of saving faith, the opposite of having faith.

Paul is not talking about one who has a weak faith that fails or is unreliable. We know God is faithful even when we doubt or fail Him and will forgive and pick us up. Peter is a great example for us here. No, Paul is referring to the one that has no saving faith in Jesus Christ, does not believe and remains in that continual state of unbelief. The well-known verse in John 3:16 speaks to the assurance of all who truly believe in Jesus Christ will be saved without exception. They will be saved eternally without exception, in spite of failure and struggle because their salvation is based in Jesus Christ alone. John 3:18 speaks to the assurance of those who do not believe in Jesus Christ and are not saved. These are eternally lost our Lord confirms, *“He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”* Paul’s statement is not one of comfort, rather warning. And he goes on.

C. “HE REMAINS FAITHFUL”-2 TIMOTHY 2:13B

It is a true statement that God remains faithful. God will remain faithful to fulfill all His promises. In Paul’s first two statements, those who are true believers, who have died with Christ and endure, our Lord promises that they will live eternally and reign with Christ in glory. But those who deny Jesus Christ and are without true saving faith, He promises that He will remain faithful to His Word and they will be judged and condemned as promised. Just as our Lord will never change His mind about His promise to save those who trust Him, He will never change His mind about His promise to judge those who do not trust Him. Faithful means that God will carry out His promises of blessings and judgment. Hebrews 10:23 says, *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”*

D. “FOR HE CANNOT DENY HIMSELF”-2 TIMOTHY 2:13C

Christ’s righteousness, His just nature and character will not allow Him to *not* judge. This must be so for God cannot lie as Hebrews 6:18 says, *“it is impossible for God to lie”*. Numbers 23:19 says that, *“God is not a man, that He should lie”*. God will be faithful to His Word, even when that means judgment.

Paul based his life on God’s faithfulness. Because of Paul’s absolute confidence in Christ and His faithfulness he could say, *“For this reason I suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know Whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”*³

We must take Paul’s warning to heart. Do not be deceived for God will be faithful about all His promises. If the condition of your heart is that you have denied Christ, you will be eternally separated forever from fellowship with God unless you turn to Him in repentance. No price is too great to pay for the hope of eternal life in heaven with Christ. Paul wrote in Romans 10:9-10, *“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses; resulting in salvation.”* If you do not know Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, do not hesitate and do not wait. Put your trust in Christ today. Admit before God that you are a sinner and in need of a Savior. Trust in Christ alone for your salvation. There’s nothing you can do to ever earn your way to heaven. It’s impossible. The only way is by believing in Jesus Christ alone. Salvation is given by God from all eternity, according to God’s purpose and grace. Jesus is the One Who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light when He came to this earth to die on the cross as our substitution in payment for our sins. We can live forever and have eternal life. Only by repenting of your sins and believing in the Jesus Christ alone will you be saved. 2 Corinthians 6:2 says, *“...behold, now is the acceptable time, behold now is the day of salvation.”* Don’t wait.

And if you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then live a life that counts for God. In light of the preeminence of Christ, the power of His Word, the purpose of His work, and the promise of reward, fix your mind firmly on Christ alone, with the desire of not wanting any to perish, but faithfully enduring whatever comes so that you can share the gospel with all who cross your path.

¹Williams, Peter, *Opening Up 2 Timothy*. One Day Publications: Ryelands Road, Leominster, New Zealand, 2007. Pg. 52.

²Lea, 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.

³MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.66.