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## Salvation In 2 Timothy. (2013)

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## Salvation in 2 Timothy.

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**INTRODUCTION:** since the overall and primary focus of this study is upon Scriptures (in most chapters in Two Timothy) that relate to salvation and are relevant to eternal life there are far too many different topics and titles to make a topics list, but I have faith that most who travel through each chapter will by the time they arrive at the end not only be enriched in their knowledge of salvation, but also enriched in God's love and God's grace in Christ.

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### 2 Timothy 1.

#### The Promise of Life that is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:1 ----- <sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus.

This verse (there are many others) clearly shows that eternal life is in Christ and not intellectual head knowledge, no-one can be saved without trusting and having faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and being devoted to him in love. It is by love that a brother or sister is said to be in Christ. Christ showed how much he loved us in that he laid down his life while we were still sinners (Rom. 5:8) we show our love toward him by our faith and devotion and it is in this love that we are said to be in Christ and thereby saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said to religious Jews who believed in God, read the Old Testament Scriptures daily and held fast to keeping every ceremonial rite, holy day and religious custom and tradition: -

- You do not have God's word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life (John 5:38-40)

These words of Jesus shine a spotlight on the truth that the purpose of the Scriptures is to bring us to Christ. David in prayer and in faith echoing Christ wrote the following words: -

- Blessed are those who put their trust in the LORD and make the Lord their trust (v3-4). Then speaking of himself, but echoing Christ says: "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me (v7) and concludes his prayer with: "You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God! (v17) (Psalm 40).

This prayer of David's shows that the security David had for his salvation to eternal life was not in doctrine, but in his daily and faithful relationship to God the Father and the coming promised seed of Abraham, Israel's Messiah the Christ. Thousands of years later the author of Hebrews in his letter cites the words of David: -

- Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book (Heb. 10:7).

The author cited this to prove to the unbelieving Jews the following two things: -

1. Salvation to eternal life is not in intellectual head knowledge of the Scripture, but in a devoted living and faithful relationship with the Father and with His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The purpose of all Scripture is to deliver a sinner from the kingdom of darkness and transferred them into the kingdom of God's beloved Son (Col. 1:13).

When we all stand before the Lord's judgment seat Christ will not sit us down to do a written doctrinal exam, but he will examine our lives to see if our religious actions stemmed from a devoted and loving heart toward him and his Father or from self, ego, and pride and will measure us against the biblical royal law (James 2:8) (Matthew 22:37-39) (Mark 12:28-31).

- Love your neighbour as yourself.

This means treating others with love, honest judgment, forgiveness, kindness, compassion, grace, mercy, respect and decency especially our brothers and sisters in Christ. It is by these things that we will be judged and by our devotion to Christ.

**NOTE:** this does not mean that studying the Scriptures is of no value, quite the contrary, since the more we understand the Bible the stronger our faith and our hope grows and the more we learn of the nature, character will and the heart of the one we love.

**To give a simple example:** a young man may meet a girl that he is attracted to, so he takes her out on a few dates and finds she has a pleasant personality and caring nature, now, he knows this girl, no-one can say anything against her that he would believe because he knows her nature and her character, but if he never takes her for another date, it won't be long before that relationship will dissipate and other things will take its place. So it is with the Scriptures they are our date with Christ and through them we gain eternal and heavenly insights into treasures of God that spiritually touch our hearts and minds in a manner that nothing in this world can.

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### **God has Not Given us a Spirit of Fear.**

2 Timothy 1:7-8 ----- <sup>7</sup>for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and a sound mind (self-control in the ESV). <sup>8</sup>Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God

**A sound mind:** denotes a person of wisdom and foresight and of discretion and carefulness who has sound judgment and a clear understanding that shows itself in right conduct and behaviour. It refers to a mind that is well balanced and under influences that causes it to see things in their true light, their true importance and just proportions and clearly understand the majestic and eternal value of the Gospel and therefore does not easily give way to the enemies of Christ or decline in faith for fear of them.

The words "God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and a sound mind" is sandwiched between Paul telling Timothy to fan the flame of his ministry (v6), and of not being ashamed of the testimony of the Lord or of Paul being a prisoner and suffering for the Gospel (v8). The testimony of Christ that Timothy was not to be ashamed of was that Jesus suffered and died as a common criminal by the hands of his enemies, and the testimony of Paul that he was not to be ashamed of was that Paul was in prison because of the Gospel these are the things Paul is telling Timothy and by extension all of us not to be ashamed of.

No doubt there were those (especially the Jews) who mocked and made fun of Timothy saying, "The Lord he preaches died as a common criminal and his great mentor is in prison." This is most likely why Paul told Timothy God gave us a sound mind in contrast to believing a foolish story or fable as the enemies of Christ were probably intimidating Timothy with.

This is most likely why Paul was encouraging Timothy to share in the suffering (i.e., the suffering of intimidation, the fear of appearing intellectually foolish and of suffering persecution) because the Gospel of the Lord is not a fable and it has power to dramatically change a person's life for the better and the power to lead to eternal life and everlasting glory and those who do believe it do have a sound mind in contrast to those who believe in idols and other gods and religions invented by man.

The power of God in this context is love. This is the reason Paul says, God called us not because we are worthy in ourselves, but because of His own purpose and His grace which He lavishes upon those in Christ. The Gospel is a Gospel of love and there is nothing that will do more to dispel fear of others and empower a person to courage than love.

The love of a sweetheart, a wife and children makes the most timid bold when those they love are threatened or attacked. Likewise it is the love of Christ and love of a dying world to see them saved to eternal life that dispels the fear of persecution and suffering in those who are devoted to the Lord in love and desire to see the lost saved. It is because of this love they overcome their own fears even unto death and are not easily intimidated, added to this it is God's love in Christ that sustains them in their deepest sorrows. Basically fear comes from self-preservation it stems from caring more for our own reputation than the Gospel and being more concerned about our own life than standing up for the Lord Jesus Christ.

The most common fear for the Christian manifests itself in being ashamed or embarrassed to talk about the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ for fear of appearing intellectually foolish or childish the fear is driven by the craving to preserve our own reputation and popularity before those outside the Kingdom of God. But the stunning thing is that God by His Spirit gives joy and mental strength (power) to those who do overcome this fear and stand up for the Lord or share their faith and the Good News of the Gospel.

**NOTE:** this does not mean that a brother or sister in Christ has to be proclaiming the Gospel every day all day or impose and force it upon everyone they met, not all are called to be evangelist, nor are all able to share the Good News of Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with everyone they meet, but it does mean that we should not be hiding our faith before others and that we do share it whenever the opportunity arises.

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### **God called us, because of His Own Purpose and Grace.**

2 Timothy 1:9-10 ----- <sup>9</sup>who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began (before the world began in KJV), <sup>10</sup>and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Paul is not saying that God before the ages began chose who would be saved to eternal life and who would be condemned to eternal death since that would totally violate God's gift of free-will and the law of justice since no-one could be held accountable for rejecting the Lord if they had already been programed by their creator to do so. Here Paul is teaching that God before the world began purposed that those who would be saved to eternal life would be saved in Christ and in Christ live a godly life. It is the plan of salvation and the type of lifestyle those who are saved would be called to live that God planned and purposed before the ages began and not who would be saved and who wouldn't.

**The wonder, glory majesty of God's eternal plan of salvation:** here is the glory of Christian salvation no one is saved because of any worth in themselves, it is not because of our good works or lack of them that anyone is saved, but for God's own eternal purpose and by His grace. This is because God purposed and promised that salvation would be in the seed of Abraham he confirmed this promise with Isaac and Jacob and made the same promise to David, now if this promise depended on us attaining to the perfect standard the law demands to attain to righteousness that leads to salvation and to the perfect Holiness of God, His eternal plan and eternal promise would fail since not one of us can attain to the perfect standard the law demands or the Holiness of God.

This is because we all live in a corrupted fallen body full of sinful aberrations and dysfunctions that limit us from satisfying the demands of the law, obviously God understands the limitations of human nature and because of this understanding in His eternal wisdom and before the ages began purposed that salvation to eternal life would be by grace and not works and in this way He could guarantee the promise.

For further information regarding predestination, see the title: "Predestination."  
(ON WEBSITE MENU).

In the Old Testament immortality and eternal life was believed, but it was not clear how it would come about, the death and resurrection and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ has made the way to immortality and eternal life and how it will come about very clear to those who seek God with a honest and humble heart.

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**Follow the Sound Words in the Faith and Love that are in Christ Jesus.**

2 Timothy 1:13-14 ----- <sup>13</sup>Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup>By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

In this context the sound words Paul is encouraging Timothy to follow, refer to right Christian behaviour. In the previous letter Paul spent a lot of time teaching Timothy how the church should treat elders, older men, widows and single woman etc. He taught the kinds of attitudes brother and sisters should have toward each other and how they should treat those outside the Kingdom of God. It is these things Paul has in mind when he told Timothy to follow the sound words that he had taught him.

The words in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus” means that Timothy is to follow what Paul has taught him in faith and in love and clothe all behaviour and all teaching with the love that is in the Lord Jesus Christ contrasted to living a life of strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days and legalistically keeping religious customs and traditions and trusting in intellectual head knowledge devoid of faith, love and grace as the path to God and the way to eternal salvation as many religious leaders and their followers were doing at the time of Paul and Timothy.

**The Holy Spirit who dwells within us:** Paul's words, by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, clearly show that the Christian faith reaches far beyond intellectual head knowledge and has a supernatural element. The words, the Holy Spirit who dwells within refers to the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of God dwelling within the mind and heart of a brother and sister in Christ. This Spirit is manifest in the heart in the desire to honour God and in a passion to live to bring a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Those separated from God have no zeal or passion in their heart or their mind to live a life that would honour the Lord Jesus Christ nor would they ever consider making any sacrifices in their life for his sake.

In contrast to this is the person who is separated from God but, humbles themselves in repentance and accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and in doing so is, born again (converted to a new life in Christ) their inward passions and desires are radically changed by God's love and grace in Christ so that their hearts desire is to live a life that would honour the Lord Jesus Christ even in troubled times. This change of heart is the work of the Holy Spirit because it is a change that motivates those in Christ to do what is right before God and avoid what is wrong thus the reason this Spirit is called the Holy Spirit.

This new passion and zeal in the heart is the Holy Spirit of God. God does not change a person from the outside by forcing them to obey laws and rules rather God changes a person on the inside by his love and grace in Christ so that those who are devoted to His Son in love desire to do right from the inside and therefore their heart is in harmony with God and his desires in contrast to those who have laws and rules imposed on them and are forced to obey them against their will.

**NOTE:** this does not mean that Christians will live a life of perfection they still live in a fallen corrupted body full of sinful dysfunctions and aberration that hinder us all from being the person we would truly love to be before the Lord, but it does mean that the inner man the spirit and hearts-desire is to do right before God.

Worldwide people come to Christ from different cultures, levels of education, indoctrination, past hurts and baggage, but as they grow and mature in the love of the Lord and the grace of God they will be changed from the inside out by the Holy Spirit dwelling within and by the influence of the God's spirit and the Spirit of Christ as they with their own minds in a humble and seeking spirit read the Scriptures (especially the words of Christ and of Paul).

**The good deposit entrusted to you:** the good deposit entrusted to Timothy most likely refers to the ordination and the authority given to him to proclaim the Gospel to the churches when Paul and the many elders laid their hands on him. Though Paul's words, guard the good deposit entrusted to you are directed at Timothy the principal underlying them applies to every faithful brother and sister in Christ serving the Lord.

This is because, entrusting the good deposit carries the idea of doing everything you can to protect the position you have been given (i.e., don't do anything foolish that would bring a bad report against your authority that other faithful men and woman in Christ have given you and in which others are placing their trust.

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## 2 Timothy 2.

### Share in Suffering as a Good Soldier.

2 Timothy 2:3-4 ----- <sup>3</sup>Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup>No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

The reference here would be to a voluntary Roman soldier, they were taken from their homes and friends; exposed to cold, heat, storms and fatiguing marches, often destitute of food and compelled to endure as much as the human frame can bear. They suffered extreme burdens and many died. Regardless of whether they endured for reward or for their country they were willing to suffer great hardship. If a soldier was willing to endure such a trying lifestyle for financial reward or for their country how much more should the soldier of the cross be willing to endure the troubles and hardships of life for Christ's sake and for the good of the human race.

This shows that a person who desires to serve the Lord should be prepared to lead a soldier's life and accept that they will be exposed to hardship, trials and at times compelled to pursue a wearisome march. No one thinking only to enjoy themselves in a life of ease and comfort should think to enter into the service of the Lord. Those who desire to serve Christ should see the Lord as the captain of salvation, the leader and Commander of those who willingly enlist themselves into his service, and under his banner be prepared to fight the good fight of faith (in contrast to living a life of ease and comfort).

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### The Crowning of an Athlete.

2 Timothy 2:5 ----- <sup>5</sup>An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

No doubt the reference here is to an athlete who strives for masteries in the Greek Olympic games for a corruptible, fading crown made of herbs and leaves of trees, as parsley and laurel, but whether it be running, wrestling, leaping etc., no matter how well they perform if they have not strived lawfully and in conformity even in the least matter regarding the rules of the games they would fail to win the prize and be crowned.

No-one no matter how zealous or passionate a brother or sister maybe toward the Lord they should not expect to receive the crown, the prize of the high calling of God or to hear the Lord say: -

- Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master (Matt 25:21).

Unless they have run the race set before them according to the Spirit of Christ (i.e., in integrity, honesty and love in contrast to hypocrisy, pretence and selfish ambition) and shown others compassion kindness grace and mercy especially brothers and sisters in Christ no one should expect to receive the prize since these are the rules every brother and sister in Christ are called to follow as they run the race toward the finish line.

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## **The Hard Working Farmer.**

2 Timothy 2:6 ----- <sup>6</sup>It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.

The idea here is that the farmer who cultivates the earth, should enjoy the fruits of his labour, but he must work before he receives the harvest and he must till the ground according to the proper rules of agriculture else he cannot have a crop. There is a great universal law that states that labour must precede reward if a person is to reap they must first sow. No-one should hope for fruits unless they have first toiled for them.

**NOTE:** the primary point here is not that the farmer would be the first one who would partake of the fruits of his labour, but that he must first labour before he can obtain the reward. It should also be mentioned that the work and labour that Paul has in focus is not the strict adherence to ceremonial rites, holy days and legalistically keeping religious customs and traditions, but about enduring in faith no matter what hardships, troubles or persecution comes and about serving the Lord and others in love.

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## **SUMMARY: the Soldier, the Athlete and the Farmer.**

These three illustrations of Paul's are given to bear on the life of Timothy and by extension every brother and sister in Christ. In all three illustrations, (the soldier, the athlete and the farmer) each must deny themselves and suffer in order to receive the reward.

- The soldier denies himself the world.
- The athlete obeys rigid laws.
- The farmer labours and waits for the reward.

Thus the message is that every brother and sister in Christ should be prepared to do likewise as they patiently wait for their eternal reward and their crown.

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## **Jesus Christ, the Offspring of David.**

2 Timothy 2:8-10 ----- <sup>8</sup>Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel <sup>9</sup>for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! <sup>10</sup>Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

The words, the offspring of David, as preached in my Gospel does not mean, only Paul's Gospel, but refers to the Gospel that he proclaims and that all the apostles proclaimed concerning the offspring of David as recorded in the following writings of Matthew and Luke.

- The angel (Gabriel) said "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God, behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David and of his kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:30-33).
- In the book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David (Matt. 1:1, 21).
- All the crowds that went before Jesus and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! (Matt 21:9).

God had sworn to David with an oath that he would set one of his descendants on his throne (Acts 2:30) and many Bible prophecies proclaimed that Israel's Messiah the Christ would come from the loins of David meaning from his bloodline (a descendent).

This came about through Jesus foster father Joseph and Mary. Joseph was from the bloodline of David's son Solomon and many scholars suspect that Mary was from the bloodline of David's son Nathan so in this manner God's promise to David and the prophecies proclaiming Jesus Christ would be the offspring of David were fulfilled.

**Paul is, bound in chains, but the word of God is not bound:** Paul words, "I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!" (v9) are awesomely beautiful since they should encourage every minister, preacher, evangelist or even a brother and sister in Christ never to fret or stress that God's word is bound simply because they for whatever reason (sickness, hardship or a crisis) cannot share the Gospel in the manner they have been used to and rest in the knowledge that it is being spread by others throughout the Global world and the glorious fact that no-one can contain or stop the word of God flowing out to the world.

The eternal word and Gospel of God is like a royal, golden and vibrant virus (admittedly not the best word), but it clearly shows how the eternal word and Gospel of Christ cannot be contained. It has been let loose into the world and even the greatest minds no matter how hard they try cannot find an antidote that will stop it from taking possession of people worldwide, who have a right heart attitude. Even today men and woman from all countries and all nations willingly embrace it into their hearts and mind and not only allow it to infect every cell of their body, but pass it onto whoever will listen. The reason eternal word and Gospel of Christ cannot be stopped is because it brings life not death.

**I endure suffering for the elect that they may be saved:** the elect (v10) in this context refers to the Jews, most of Paul's suffering is a result of proclaiming Christ to the Jews, yet he is still prepared to endure suffering at their hands so that some may be saved. Here is the true heart of a Shepherd Paul has more than enough knowledge for salvation and is saved to eternal life so he could sit back and take it easy, but because of his love for the Lord and those outside the Kingdom of God he not only chooses to live a life of denying himself of worldly pleasures and luxuries, but is also prepared to suffer so others would be added to the family of Christ and so that brothers and sisters in Christ would mature in the love of the Lord and the grace of God. This is the true heart of a shepherd; Paul is not suffering for himself, but for others.

### **Salvation that is in Christ Jesus with Eternal Glory.**

It is interesting to notice the words, "They also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (v10) this is the language most New Testament writers use after Christ resurrection. They don't give any indication where eternal glory will be except to say that it will be with the Lord. Whereas prior to the death and resurrection of Christ the primary focus is on the Kingdom of God. This is because, prior to Christ resurrection no-one not even the apostles fully understood that Jesus is the promised seed of Abraham and promised the seed of David, Israel's Messiah the Christ to come the King and the Son of God nor did they understand that Jesus would be crucified die and rise again until they saw him after his resurrection.

Certainly they believed a King was coming who would conquer nations and set Israel up as the head nation of the world this is why the focus was on the Kingdom prior to Christ's death, but since Jesus resurrection the focus of all New Testament writers is Christ this is because he is the royal path and the golden door to the Kingdom whereas the Kingdom is the inheritance of those who are in Christ by faith, love and God's grace.

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### **If we have Died with Him, we will also Live with Him.**

2 Timothy 2:11-13 ---- <sup>11</sup>The saying is trustworthy for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; <sup>12</sup>if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; <sup>13</sup>if we are faithless (if we believe not in KJV) he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

Dying with Christ in this context is when a person: -



- Surrenders their life to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Denies themselves of worldly pleasures to serve the Lord.
- Surrenders their own desires, ambitions or dreams to serve Christ.
- Sacrifices their own time to minister or help others.
- Gives financial aid to others (sacrificing money that could be spent on themself).
- Lays down their life for others.

Being water baptised is also a dying with Christ, this is because it outwardly evidences that a person desires to die to self and live for God. Much like a marriage is to a romance i.e., the love is already existing in the heart of the courting couple long before the marriage, but the marriage seals the love and evidences their contract to commit to each other in love for life.

The couple (in a certain sense) then become part of the global family of all those who are married. Prior to being married they could not call themselves a member of this global family even though they deeply loved each other. Water baptism is similar in the sense that almost everyone is in love with Christ (at some level) prior to being baptised in water, but it is through water baptism that they become a brother or sister of the global and heavenly family of Christ from which the only thing that can separate them from is their own deliberate and conscious denial of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**For further information see the title: -**

- Water Baptism (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**SUMMARY:** dying with Christ is anything we do for God and the Kingdom of Christ that requires the sacrifice of something (i.e., labour, time, money, popularity or good reputation amongst those outside the Kingdom of God) is dying with Christ, this is because sacrifice involves suffering (obviously different levels) in the sense that to give to others there has to be a denying of ourselves.

Dying with Christ is not limited to these things only, but also affects our attitudes in the following manner, if a person grossly offends or hurts us in some manner; we want revenge, but the Spirit says forgive, so we forgive, this also is dying with Christ since to forgive in this circumstance goes against everything our emotions and mind wants this is mentally and spiritually denying our old-self to do what is right for the Lord.

**If we Deny Him, He also will Deny Us.**

The words, "If we deny him, he also will deny us" (v13) reflects the glory and beauty of Christ's Spirit being in perfect harmony with God's Spirit. God will never force himself upon anyone; He will never violate a person's free will. This verse shows us that the Lord Jesus Christ like his heavenly Father will also never violate a person's will, this is the reason the Lord will deny us if we deny him meaning if we deliberately and consciously turn from him or wilfully live a lifestyle that is corrupt and offensive to him and his heavenly Father.

This is an important principal to keep in mind when witnessing, God calls people into His Kingdom by love not by force. The Lord Jesus Christ is God's invitation to an eternal wedding banquet. Those who chose to respond from their own free will to this invitation will be accepted into the eternal family of Christ. God's gift to those who reject the invitation is to eat, drink and be merry as long as they can because that is there lot for life since all that awaits them is a coffin and a grave.

Paul is saying that even though a brother or sister has the potential to deny Jesus the Lord himself will never deny them meaning he remains faithful regardless of what we do. This does not mean they remain saved, but that Christ's faithfulness does not fluctuate as human faithfulness does. It also means that when a brother or sister turns away from their faith it is not Jesus leaving them; it is them choosing to forsake the Lord.

**Jesus remains faithful:** his faithfulness never changes in contrast to human faithfulness that can fluctuate up or down especially if circumstances get tough. But even when brothers or sisters do turn away Jesus faithfulness remains the same in that his faithfulness is always ready to receive back with love and grace any brother or sister who returns in honest heartfelt repentance no matter how much they may have hurt God or brought a bad testimony to the Lord himself. Such is the majestic splendour of Christ's boundless love, grace and faithfulness.

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### **Quarrels over Speculations only Ruin the Hearers.**

2 Timothy 2:14 ----- <sup>14</sup>Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.

Quarrelling over words of Scripture is not godly and not only destroys those that are listening, but brings a bad testimony to the Christian faith. Early in my Christian life during a smoko break on a building site two professing Christian guys started a conversation between themselves over doctrine which turned into a heated quarrel over who was right and who was wrong. As I watched the thought came to my mind, it really does not matter which one is right or wrong the fact they were having such a full on argument over God was far more destructive to the Christian faith to those who were watching than anything they were saying even if one of them had proven he was right.

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### **Rightly Handling the Word of Truth.**

2 Timothy 2:15 ----- <sup>15</sup>Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

These words of Paul show that Paul understood those who belong to the family of Christ are not perfect all he expects of them is for them to do their best with what they have. But notice the key words, before God not before man, but before God. This teaches us all a great principle to base our lives on. No brother or sister in Christ should worry about what judgmental people may think of them or stress because they are unable to attain to the high standard that others may expect of them. Often (especially in religious groups) certain people can impose their own expectations on others, even when they have absolutely no idea of the difficult circumstances surrounding a person's life.

Here Paul is saying every brother and sister in Christ should consciously and mentally walk before the Lord doing the best they can and know that Christ sees the heart, the motivation the good desire and the effort spent and it is by these they will be storing up treasures in heaven and not by stressing and struggling to attain to other peoples (especially those who are legalistic and dogmatic) high expectations of them.

**Rightly handling the word of truth:** it is one thing to have a good understanding of the Bible, but it is a totally different thing to have the wisdom to handle it, having Bible knowledge and not knowing how to handle it can do more damage than good. Rightly handle the word of truth is not about knowing the truth, but about being wise in handling the truth. Those who argue and quarrel over Scripture even if they are right do not know how to handle the word of truth and will do more harm than good. James in his letter wrote: -

- The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere (James 3:17).

This means that those who are wise and spiritual will be humble and graceful enough to sit and reason together in an atmosphere of peace even though they may be discussing opposing topics. Rightly handling the word of truth is about being able to share it without quarrelling, arguing and causing strife and division.

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## **The Lord knows those who are His.**

2 Timothy 2:19 ----- <sup>19</sup>But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

Here are some of the most comforting words of the entire Bible, the Lord knows those who are his and one of the reasons no brother or sister in Christ should spend fruitless time in judging whether a person who confesses to believe in the Lord is saved or not saved. Certainly we are to judge outward behaviour that is grossly corrupt since bad behaviour is contagious. The following are three reasons everyone who confesses to believe in the Lord should depart from iniquity.

1. So they don't bring a bad testimony to God the Lord Jesus Christ or the Christian faith.
2. Because any form of wrong-doing will lead to trouble and hardship.
3. Doing the right thing (in contrast to the wrong) brings a good testimony to God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

## **Vessels of Gold and Silver and of Wood and Clay.**

2 Timothy 2:20-21 ---- <sup>20</sup>Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honourable use, some for dishonourable. <sup>21</sup>Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonourable, he will be a vessel for honourable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

This is a fabulous picture of the spiritual Kingdom of God existing now (also called the church) since it clearly shows that within the Kingdom of God at this present time there are good servants and wicked servants, faithful servants and unfaithful servants of the Lord. The words, Gold, silver, wood and clay (v20) immediately take the mind of the ardent Bible student to the following words Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians: -

- If anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw each one's work will become manifest, for the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, they will receive a reward, but if anyone's work is burned up, they will suffer loss, though they themselves will be saved, but only as through fire (1 Cor. 3:12-15).

**For further information see the title: Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).**

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## **2 Timothy 3.**

### **All Scripture is Breathed out by God.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ---- <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

The Jews throughout the Old Testament had selected scribes who were painstaking fussy and meticulously careful to record on scrolls (also called parchments) in exact detail all that the prophets spoke and because these scrolls contained the word of God they treated and protected them as the greatest treasures on earth. Added to this the LORD had told them to teach from generation to generation the words of the prophets and God's dealings with Israel throughout the Old Testament and commanded the fathers to teach their children this is one of the reasons they were enormously fastidious and careful about protecting these scrolls. By the time of Paul there were many scrolls (parchments) that Jewish scribes had recorded and kept since the time of John the Baptist. These scrolls contained the messages of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John etc., and were available to read and study for men like Paul, Timothy and others who proclaimed the Gospel (2 Tim. 4:13).

**Proclaiming God's word to nations of all languages:** when Paul said, "All Scripture is breathed out by God" (2 Tim. 3:16) he did not mean every individual word as some religious ministers teach. If this was a true teaching then those who live in China and Mexico or speak any other language than what the Bible was originally written in could never read the, Scripture that is breathed out by God since their Bibles would certainly not be written in the same words as the original manuscripts. Paul's statement, "All Scripture is breathed out by God," refers to the messages that the individual words put together teach and not the individual words themselves. It applies to the messages spoken by the prophets and apostles (i.e., the sum total of what the individual words put together are teaching).

Sometime a prophet was given a message by the inspiration of God and they were to speak the exact words God had given them to the people. At other times God spoke to the prophets and they spoke the messages to the people in their own words (especially if it was a vision or revelation). Though the words they used might have been different the messages remains the same. God's word was not corrupted simply because the prophets used their own words to explain to the people what God had said. If this was the case no preacher on earth (no matter how good) would be speaking the inspired word of God unless they are using the exact words the original manuscripts were written in (i.e., Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek).

**A simple example:** a preacher may go to a foreign country of which he cannot speak the language so he proclaims the Gospel in his language and an interpreter translates it into the common language of the people. They then understand it and if they respond with a right heart attitude to the message they hear they will be saved to eternal life, clearly showing that it is not individual words that are the inspired word of God, but the messages the words present. This is why it does not matter what language the Bible is written in if the messages remain the same its power to save to eternal life those who seek God with a humble heart is in no-way diminished.

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## 2 Timothy 4.

### God and Christ Jesus will Judge the Living and the Dead.

2 Timothy 4:1 ----- <sup>1</sup>I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead and by his appearing and his kingdom.

When Christ appears in glory and in his Kingdom at the last day those who are raised to life out of the grave and those who are found alive whether they are ministers preachers or hearers will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ and give an account to the Lord Jesus Christ. This is one of the reasons why brothers and sisters in Christ should not judge the heart or the salvation of another since we will all have to give an account for ourselves to the Lord and we cannot know the motivation of another's person's heart or what troubles and hurts may be residing in it. Though some may be a master in the art of deception and living a life of hypocrisy and pretence, not one of us can deceive the Lord.

The words, "By his appearing and his Kingdom," refers to that glorious moment when Christ returns as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce.

All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

**For further information see titles: -**

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## 2 Timothy 4

**I have fought the Good Fight.**

2 Timothy 4:7-8 ----- <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Enduring in the faith and proclaiming the Gospel is called the Good Fight (v7) because it is not fought with fist or weapons of war, but with love, mercy and grace and the end result of those who surrender is joy, peace, contentment and eternal life in everlasting glory.

**The Glory and Beauty of the Christian Race.**

at the Grecian games, only one could obtain the highest prize all the rest who contended in those games, no matter how numerous they were, or how skilfully they contended, or how much effort they made, were of course subjected to missing out on the highest prize and the greatest reward all the rest are liable to the disappointment of missing out on the highest prize even though they cross the finish line, but not so in the Christian faith.

Here is the excitement the joy the thrill and the glory of running in the Christian race, no matter how numerous the competitors, or how worthy, talented and skilled any one of them maybe all may obtain the highest prize all may be crowned with a diadem of eternal life of equal brilliancy. No one is excluded of eternal life because another is successful; no one loses the reward because another obtains it. Such is the wonder and splendour of God's love, grace and mercy in Christ and the joy of running alongside our brothers and sisters having the knowledge that all who reach the finish-line receive the highest prize of an immortal and eternal crown and not just the first to cross over it.

**All who have loved the Lords appearing:** some have wondered if the words, "But also to all who have loved his appearing" (that love his appearing in KJV) (v8), are referring to Christ birth or his return. In the context of what Paul is saying they clearly apply to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. But it would not be wrong to embrace the Lords birth since it was the most majestic and glorious event to take place amongst mankind and changed the entire religious and spiritual world forever, had Christ never been born there would be no Christian faith which undoubtedly means that all who do look forward to the Lords return have clearly loved his birth.

Nevertheless the focus and context is looking forward to Christ's return. This spectacular moment will not only change the world forever, but will manifest the awe-inspiring and mind-blowing energy of God in a manner that will cause the entire world to stand in awe of God's breath-taking power. This is because when Christ returns God will not be resurrecting one man to eternal glory as he did with Jesus, but all who have died in faith and all who are alive and who have trusted in the promised seed of Abraham and David, Israel's Messiah the Christ and with anticipated excitement looked forward to his return.

To believe in the return of Christ in glory to judge the world and to desire with heartfelt joy his return became one of the standards by which Christians were known since no others but faithful Christians believed in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and no others truly desired it. This has not changed it is the same even today the return of the Lord is one of the characteristics of a true Christian. All who know the love of Christ and God's grace not only sincerely desire the return of their Saviour and King, but the cry of their heart says, "Come Lord Jesus come" (Rev. 22:20).

The book of Revelation proclaims: -

- Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him (Rev. 1:7).

**NOTICE:** Paul has absolute confidence and assurance the Lord will grant a crown of righteousness to him and to all those who are looking forward to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, he does not in any manner doubt his salvation added to this he also has full assurance that all those who are in Christ will be saved to eternal life.

**The glory wonder, splendour of the Christian faith:** in this race every brother and sister who runs may obtain the crown. The struggle is not between each other and a competitor in such a sense that, if one obtains the crown all others must be excluded; but it is a crown which everyone can obtain. As many as run - as many as fight the good fight - as many as keep the faith - as many as love his appearing, may win the crown. Such is beauty and glory in which the rewards and prize of this race differs from all other races. The reward is great since it is a reward not of debt, but of grace and fit for an apostle and for the most common of us who belong to the global family of Christ. The reward is given not only to those with great gifts and talents, but to all who look by faith and with love toward the Lords appearing. This crown is laid up - it is in view, but not in possession.

There is laid up for all who look to the Lord's return with anticipated excitement a crown of righteousness. The happiness of the future state of every brother and sister in Christ is signified by a crown on account of the glory and excellency of it; and in perfect agreement with the character of those in Christ as kings who are raised to sit among princes and to inherit the Throne of glory and have a Kingdom prepared for them. This is called a crown of righteousness, because it comes through the righteousness of Christ; it is his righteousness that gives those in the Lord the right to it. Without Christ's righteousness that is obtained and possessed by faith and not by works and self-effort it cannot be enjoyed.

This crown can only be possessed by faith and God's grace it cannot be usurped (as crowns sometimes are) by self-righteousness or self-effort or by trusting in the strict adherence of ceremonial rites, holy days or by legalistically keeping religious customs or traditions. It is God the Father's free gift unto his children, it is what they are born heirs to, and have an anticipated excitement for through their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and God's grace they have the legal title to it.

This happiness, signified by a crown, is laid up in the covenant of grace for every faithful brother and sister in Christ, which is promised with God's oath and therefore guaranteed in Christ in whose hands their life of glory is hidden and secure laid up in heaven and reserved there for that glorious day of their Saviours return.

The crown of every brother and sister is a crown of righteousness, purchased by the righteousness of Christ, they have not yet attained this state it is sure (except by faith and God's grace), but it is laid up in glory for those who endure through poverty, pain, sickness, and the agonies of death to the finish line. No brother or sister in Christ should despair since their crown is not like the perishing wreath of olive or the laurel or pine and parsley which could be presented on only on one victor, but is an eternal crown that will be bestowed on all who endure in faith to the finish line. Such is the honour and glory, the splendour and beauty of the Christian faith.

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End.