

Welcome to: - Bible House Of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

2 Timothy 2.

(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

2 Timothy 2.

Topics.

- Share in suffering as a good soldier.
- The crowing of an athlete and a hard working farmer.
- Jesus Christ, the offspring of David.
- Paul is bound in chains, but the word of God is not bound.
- If we have died with him, we will also live with him.
- Rightly handling the word of truth.
- The Lord knows those who are his.

The Previous Chapter: in the previous chapter Paul told Timothy to fan into flame the gift of God which was in him and spoke of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus and the gift of God in Timothy through the laying on of hands. He told Timothy that God has not given us a spirit of fear and spoke of God calling us for his own purpose. Paul stated that God is able to guard what has been entrusted to him and talked of the Holy Spirit who dwells within those who trust Christ. Onesiphorus sought Paul out and helped him while Phygelus and Hermogenes and all who were in Asia turned away from Paul.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

Strength in Christ Jesus

2 Timothy 2:1-2 ----- ¹Therefore, my child (son in KJV), be strengthened (strong in KJV), by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ²and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

The word 'therefore', shows the connection between this and the preceding chapter in which Phygelus, Hermogenes and all Asia turned away from Paul and the words, 'my child' expresses Paul's tender affection for Timothy. Since there were so many who had turned away from Paul he encourages Timothy with the words, "Be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (v1). Though Paul is speaking to Timothy every brother and sister in Christ can be encouraged by his words which can apply to all of the following: -

- Be strong in faith and in the free favour and love of God in Christ and be strengthened by the grace that is in the Lord knowing that neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, is able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 8:39).
- Stand strong and strengthened in the grace in Christ in contrast to being strong in our own strength, meaning don't trust in our own righteousness or good works to be counted righteous, but only in God's grace in Christ.
- Be strong in the grace in Christ in contrast to standing strong in the law as many of the Jews were doing, meaning don't trust in ceremonial rites, holy days and religious customs and traditions to be saved, but only in God's grace in Christ and by this knowledge and this grace be strengthened.
- Stand mentally strong in dependence, meaning in dependence on the grace that is in Christ for the covering of every sinful dysfunction and aberration dwelling in the corrupted fallen body that we live in which limit and hinder us

from attaining to the standard of righteousness the law demands. Therefore rather than condemn ourselves because of these sinful dysfunctions and aberrations be strengthened in faith in dependence on the grace in Christ because it is only in that grace which is in Christ that God can declare us righteous and saved to eternal life.

- Be fully assured that if we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:7-10) and by this abundant grace that is in Christ be strengthened.

NOTICE: Paul tells Timothy to be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ. This is because there is nothing in us that can enhance our spiritual and mental well-being or strengthen our faith rather the strength comes from living in the grace and the love of God that is in Christ because it is grace that sets us free from self-condemnation and self-effort in striving to attain to the high standard of righteousness the law demands.

The following words of Paul show the enormous importance of trusting in God's grace in Christ. Paul in his letters wrote: -

- I do not nullify the *GRACE* of God, for if justification were through the law (or any form of religious self-effort), then Christ died for no purpose (Gal. 2:21).

This means, when a brother or sister in Christ begin to justify themselves through the law and self-effort they nullify the grace of God and by their actions declare that Christ's death was of no value.

Equally as horrific as this Paul states: -

- When we forsake *GRACE* we separate ourselves from Christ because it was only by *GRACE* that God made us alive in Christ (Gal. 5:4) (Eph. 2:5).

Paul to highlight even more the majestic glory of grace wrote with absolute boldness that: -

- It is only by *GRACE* that any brother or sister has been saved (Eph. 2:8).

Paul in these verses is shining a brilliant floodlight on the truth that every brother and sister in Christ is saved, solely by faith and by grace and it is not their own doing, but the gift of God. This means that without grace no-one can be united to Christ and whoever is without Christ is separated from God and without God no-one can be saved to eternal life.

This means in regards to eternal salvation, Christ, God, Grace and Faith,
are all on an equal par with each other since no-one can be
saved to eternal life without any one of them.

This is the reason the author in the book of Hebrews spends so many chapters brilliantly and skilfully explaining to the Hebrews that they must stop their sin of trusting in religious works, the Levitical Law and their priesthood to be counted righteous before God and start trusting in the grace of God that is in Christ and in his righteousness to be saved to eternal life.

By extension this means that Christians must stop trusting in attending a church building every week, strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions to be saved.

Though the practise of some of these maybe good in themselves they become grossly sinful when believers trust in them for their salvation since not one of them has any power to save to eternal life.

Share in Suffering as a Good Soldier.

2 Timothy 2:3-4 ----- ³Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴No 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 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).

The Crowing of an Athlete.

2 Timothy 2:5 -----⁵An 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.

The Hard Working Farmer.

2 Timothy 2:6 -----⁶It 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. It is that great universal law that states, "Labour must precede reward; if a person is to reap they must first sow." No-one should hope for fruits, unless they have 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.

Summary of the soldier, athlete and 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 and patiently wait for their eternal reward and their eternal crown.

The Lord will give you Understanding in Everything.

2 Timothy 2:7 -----⁷Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

The things Paul tells Timothy to think over are the things he has said regarding being strengthened by the grace in Christ, trusting faithful men to teach others and the things he spoke about suffering as a good soldier. The crowing of an athlete and the hard working farmer and the things he has taught him in the previous chapter including all that Paul had taught Timothy in his first letter regarding right Christian behaviour and how the church should treat elders, older men, widows and single woman etc. The attitudes brothers and sisters should have toward each other and how they should treat those outside the Kingdom of God. These are the things Paul had in mind when he told Timothy to think over what he had taught him.

The thought here is that as Timothy meditates, ponders, considers and gives time to thinking and reflecting over what Paul has spoken the Lord will give him understanding. This is also a principle that applies to reading the Bible, it should never be read in a hurry simply to knock off a chapter or two for the day so we can move onto the next thing, but rather given time to meditate, ponder, consider and think and reflect about what is written to allow the Spirit of God to bring insight and understanding to what we are reading.

NOTE: the insight and understanding may not always come instantly, since there are many ways in which God speaks to us (i.e., by inspiration of thought, through a brother or sister in Christ or a preacher of the Gospel, sometimes through secular friends and our experiences and of course by prayer), but regardless of how God communicates to us if we spend the effort and give time to meditation upon his word with a humble heart and seeking mind God by His Spirit will give wisdom and understanding as we grow in the love of Christ.

Jesus Christ, the Offspring of David.

2 Timothy 2:8-10 ----- ⁸Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! ¹⁰Therefore 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" (v8) 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 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 both 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.

The following words of Paul, "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 and every 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 own it or contain it. The eternal word of God is like a royal, golden and vibrant virus (admittedly not the best word, but it clearly shows how the word cannot be contained) that has been let loose and even the greatest minds of mankind cannot find an antidote that will stop it from taking possession of people worldwide who from all countries and nations willingly embrace it into their hearts and mind and allow it to infect every cell of their body. The reason it cannot be stopped is because it brings life not death to those who possess it.

I endure suffering for the elect that they maybe saved: (v10) the elect 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 that brothers and sisters would mature in the love of Christ and the grace of God and others would be added to the family of Christ.

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: (v10) it is interesting to notice the words, "They also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" because 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 was the promised seed of Abraham and the promised 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 door to the Kingdom whereas the Kingdom is the inheritance of those who are in Christ by faith, love and God's grace. Even in this world whoever belongs to the King's family inherits his kingdom, likewise whoever by faith and God's grace belongs to Christ (the King) are adopted children of God and as His children will naturally inherit His Kingdom when the Lord returns in glory.

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

2 Timothy 2:11-13 ---- ¹¹The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; ¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; ¹³if 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 themselves).

- 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 denial of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For further information see the title: Water Baptism (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Anything we do for God and the Kingdom of Christ that requires the sacrifice of something (i.e., labour, time, money, popularity or our family or friends 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 i.e., if a person grossly offends or hurts us in some manner; the flesh wants 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 thus it 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: (v13) these words of Paul's reflect 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, thus the reason if we deny the Lord he will let us go. This is an important principle 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 choose 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 their lot for life since all that awaits them is a coffin and a grave.

Paul is telling Timothy 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.

Quarrels over Speculations only Ruin the Hearers.

2 Timothy 2:14-15 --- ¹⁴Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. ¹⁵Do 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.

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 Christians

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.

Do your best to present yourself to God: (v15) these words of Paul show that Paul understood Timothy was not perfect, all he expected of him as his spiritual father was for him to do his best with what he had, 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 telling Timothy and by extension every brother and sister in Christ to 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 wisely. Having Bible knowledge and not knowing how to handle it can do more damage than good. Rightly handling the word of truth is not about knowing the truth, but about being wise in handling the truth. Many can have the knowledge of the truth, but totally lack wisdom in applying it (especially those who are prideful, dogmatic and legalistic).

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.

Hymenaeus and Philetus.

2 Timothy 2:16-18 ---- ¹⁶But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, ¹⁷and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.

This is the only verse that cites Philetus and the only other verse that cites Hymenaeus is (1 Tim 1:20).

Irreverent babble, in this context refers to speculations, human reasoning and spending endless hours in fruitless discussion. The reason this kind of discussion leads into more and more ungodliness is because it is simply about prideful people showing off their intellectual knowledge which eventually leads to more and more strife, contention and heated argument.

This is because these types of discussions are mostly motivated by pride in contrast to actually caring about the other person’s spiritual well-being and totally devoid of love and grace since discussions that enter into argument are all about proving ones is right and the other is wrong. Added to this the prideful who argue to be proven right are not only totally insensitive to the Spirit and presence of God, but also lack humbleness mercy and grace.

Hymenaeus and Philetus: were saying that the resurrection had already taken place, this for most brothers and sisters in Christ who have even a limited understanding of the Bible would find difficult to understand how anyone could believe such a teaching. But to my surprise I came across a church that has a global following that actually teaches this very doctrine, it amazed me how they could take Scriptures completely out of context and twist them to fit their grossly mistaken theory.

NOTE: Paul's words, "Avoid irreverent babble" (v16) does not mean that faithful brothers and sisters cannot have friendly light-hearted chats about their own ideas and speculations the context of what Paul is warning against and telling Timothy to avoid is conversations full of tension and strife, especially when they are over fruitless trivial matters etc.

The Lord Knows those Who are His.

2 Timothy 2:19 ----- ¹⁹But 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 faithful 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, but we are not called to judge a person's salvation since we cannot know the true condition of their heart.

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 ---- ²⁰Now 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. ²¹Therefore, 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 and the body of Christ) 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).

These words of Paul shine a brilliant spot light on the following three truths: -

1. We should not concern ourselves with attempting to judge who is saved and who is not since only God knows the true motivation of the human heart and the inward hurts and struggles a brother or sister in Christ maybe struggling with.
2. Righteousness that leads to eternal life is a free gift.

3. Salvation is a totally separate issue to rewards. Whoever belongs to Christ will be saved to eternal life, but not all who are saved to eternal life will have rewards stored up in heaven, in fact the heavenly storehouse of some will be so empty they will suffer some form of loss.

For further information see the title: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Lord's Servant must not be Quarrelsome, but Kind to Everyone.

2 Timothy 2:22-26 ---- ²²So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. ²³Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. ²⁴And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth ²⁶and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

The devil in this context is the personification of every attitude (i.e., self, pride, ego, greed and lust etc.,) that is dwelling in the human heart and is opposed to God and the Lord Jesus Christ in contrast to the Spirit of Christ and all that is in harmony with God dwelling in the human heart (i.e., compassion kindness, mercy, grace, forgiveness etc.).

Every brother and sister in Christ should understand that the unsaved are trapped by the devil, meaning they are trapped by, self-centredness, pride, ego, greed, lust, self-gratification (physical, financial or emotional) and such like things. If we understand that those without the Spirit of Christ dwelling within are captured by these forces it should not only motivated us to be more tolerant and graceful, but also help us to show compassion and kindness in the hope that they might begin to seek after the Lord and escape from all that hinders them from coming to repentance that they might receive eternal life.

For further information concerning the devil, see the title: -

- Devil in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End