

Trustworthy Statements – Part 2

(2 Timothy 2:11-13)

INTRODUCTION:

1. We live in a world where distrust and suspicion are common.
 - A. We do not trust the media, our government, our institutions, businesses, and often others in general to tell us the truth.
 - B. On the other side our government, institutions, businesses, etc., do not trust us.
 - i. That this is true is easily seen when you try to buy a new car or a house.
 - ii. The mound of paperwork needed to be signed and initialed to assure all involved that you will do what you promise is astounding!
2. Now contrast the way of the world with what is said of our God in Hebrews 6:18, which is simply that "...it is impossible for God to lie..." That means that **all of the Bible, which is God's word, can be trusted!** It is true!
3. So, when God chooses to preface a specific revelation with "**this is a trustworthy statement,**" we should get the hint that the Spirit wants us to take special notice of it.
 - A. That is what I want to talk about—trustworthy statements of the Bible.
 - B. For, five times within the three short letters of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus the Spirit called attention to certain statements with those words.
 - C. In the last lesson on this we considered four of these statements found in 1 Timothy and Titus.
- 4. Today I want to look at the fifth and final one which is found in 2 Timothy 2:11-13.
5. Before we examine it, consideration of the **context** is helpful.
 - A. In 2:1-7 Paul encouraged Timothy to **stand strong** in God's grace, to consider Paul's teaching and commit it to others, to be willing to **suffer** with Paul for what is right as a good soldier should so that Timothy might receive the prize.
 - B. In 2:8-10 Paul encouraged Timothy to remember the resurrected Jesus whose gospel Paul preached and for which Paul **suffered**, being **imprisoned**.
 - C. At this point Paul presents our final **trustworthy statement**—a statement upon which Paul's **service to Christ was founded** and which we the readers **must accept and adhere to** in our service of Christ (**2:11-13**).
 - i. As you can see, this involves several "if, then" statements which means that there are conditions presented, which in this case are both positive and negative.
 - ii. And, based on how one relates to those conditions what follows is either a blessing or a penalty from God.
6. With these things in mind let's consider this "trustworthy statement" in the hopes of being encouraged and warned by it as was intended by the Holy Spirit.

BODY:

I. "For if we have died with Him, we will also live with Him" (2:11).

A. Condition: "If we have died with Him"

1. This condition is positive because it refers to past actions required for one's conversion and continued life in Christ.
 - a. Jesus requires this to be a disciple (Mark 8:34-35 – "And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, **he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.**"³⁵ For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but **whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.**")
 - b. Paul also spoke of this as the life of faith we must live in Christ (Gal. 2:20 – "**I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.").
2. Serving Christ requires the sacrifice of ourselves, our will and desires, to Christ!
3. But this sacrifice does not go without reward.

B. Blessing: "we will also live with Him"

1. Christ offers us life from the death of sin (Eph. 2:1-6 – “And you were **dead in your trespasses and sins**,² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and **were by nature children of wrath**, even as the rest.⁴ But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of His **great love** with which He loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive together with Christ** (by **grace** you have been saved),⁶ and **raised us up with Him**, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus”).
 - a. This is such a wonderful blessing that God offers to everyone—to all sinners.
 - b. Here is the thing. So many tragically miss out on this blessing because they are ignorant of, or misled, or simply refuse to accept the Bible’s teaching concerning how to receive it.
2. For, the Spirit clearly teaches that **death to self** and **resurrection to life** with Christ **require baptism**.
 - i. Scripture:
 - 1) **Rom. 6:3-7** – “Or do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized into Christ Jesus** have been **baptized into His death**?⁴ Therefore we have been **buried with Him through baptism into death**, so that **as Christ was raised from the dead** through the glory of the Father, **so we too might walk in newness of life**.⁵ For **if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death**, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,⁶ knowing this, that **our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with**, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin.”
 - 2) **Col. 2:12** – “having been **buried with Him in baptism, in which** you were also **raised up with Him through faith in the working of God**, who raised Him from the dead.”
 - ii. Analysis: Both death to self and resurrection to life with Christ require the act of baptism.
 - 1) **Death to self** is present in baptism because it is in baptism that we have **become united with him in the likeness of His death** and **our old self** has been **crucified with Him** because we are **baptized into His death** and **buried with Him through or in baptism into death**.
 - 2) **Resurrection to life with Christ** also takes place in one’s submission to baptism.
 - a) For, **as Christ was raised from the dead, in baptism** we too can **walk in newness of life** and **are raised up with Him through faith in the working of God**.
 - b) And, because **we have become united with him in the likeness of His death** by being **baptized into Christ and His death**, then **we will certainly be in the likeness of His resurrection!**
3. If you want to receive life from God, you must be willing to die to self and be buried with Christ in baptism that you might be raised to newness of life through faith in the power of God that raised Jesus from the dead.

II. “If we endure, we will also reign with Him” (2 Tim. 2:12a)

A. Condition: “If we endure”

1. This is a positive condition because to **endure** means we must remain constant, persevere in Christ, even in the face of suffering (*Mounce’s, Strong’s*).
2. This was the very thing Paul was speaking of in the context (2:8-10 – “Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my **gospel**,⁹ for which I **suffer hardship** even to **imprisonment** as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned.

¹⁰ For this reason I **endure all things** for the **sake of those who are chosen**, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.”).

- a. Paul was **suffering** hardship, even imprisonment as a criminal, as he wrote this (2:8-9).
- b. And he willingly did so, choosing to **endure** this suffering, as did Christ, for the salvation of the elect (2:10).

3. We, too, are called to endure suffering (1 Pet. 2:20-23 – “For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you **do what is right** and suffer for it **you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.** ²¹ For you have been **called for this purpose**, since **Christ also suffered for you**, leaving you an example for you to **follow in His steps**, ²² Who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; ²³ and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but **kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously**”).

- a. We are called in Christ for the purpose of doing right and enduring suffering it brings it upon us just as Jesus did.
- b. We are also called to endure suffering with the attitude of Christ, or with patience and by entrusting ourselves to God who judges righteously.

4. **Enduring** such suffering **demands great faith** in God and His promises.

- a. We must believe Him concerning suffering’s value **in this life** (Jas. 1:2-4 – “Consider it **all joy**, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the **testing of your faith produces endurance.** ⁴ And let endurance have its **perfect result**, so that you may be **perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.**”).
- b. We must believe Him concerning suffering’s value **for the life to come** (Rom. 8:16-18 – “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we **suffer with Him** so that we may also be **glorified with Him.** ¹⁸ For I consider that the **sufferings** of this present time are **not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**”).

B. Blessing: “**we will also reign with Him.**”

1. When we willingly endure suffering for Christ, we are sharing in the honor and power of Christ and His kingdom.

- a. According to **Strong’s, Thayer’s, and BDAG**, to “**reign with**” means “to be co-regent, to reign with, to reign or rule together with” someone, who in this case is Christ.
- b. Christ rules in his kingdom now (Acts 2:29-36), but He will surrender His kingdom and rule to the Father at the end of time (1 Cor. 15:22-28).
- c. Thus, I am convinced that this is teaching that when we endure suffering with Christ, we also reign with Him in His kingdom right now!

2. Thus, things in this world are not as they may seem.

- a. To those without knowledge of Christ, we who suffer for Christ may appear to be the lowliest, the weakest, the least honored of all upon this earth (Rom. 8:35-37 – “Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written, “For Your sake we are being **put to death all day long**; we were **considered as sheep to be slaughtered.**” ³⁷ But in all these things we **overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.**”).
- b. For, those in Christ stand as **kings** reigning with Christ!
 - i. Eph. 2:4-6 - “But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of His **great love** with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive together with Christ** (by **grace** you have been saved), ⁶ and **raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.**”

- 1) Jesus sits in heaven on God’s throne!

- ii. 1 Pet. 2:9 – “But you are a chosen race, a **royal** [basileios – kingly] **priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”
- 3. We need to ask ourselves whether we truly believe these words and what they mean to us!
 - a. We are not the scum of the earth, the fearful, the defeated!
 - b. We are kings and we need to stand with the confidence of Christ for all to see!

III. “If we deny Him, He also will deny us; ¹³ If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself” (2 Tim. 2:12b-13).

- A. NOTE: After presenting two positive conditions for receiving God’s special blessings, Paul now presents two negatives. And just as we should be impressed with the wonders of the blessings Christ gives the faithful, so we should be impressed with the penalties Christ imposes on the faithless!
- B. Condition and its penalty: “**If we deny Him, He also will deny us**” (2:12b).
 - 1. Jesus addressed the penalty of denying Him during His earthly ministry.
 - a. In **Matthew 10:32-33** in the context of persecution and suffering Jesus warned, “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But **whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.**”
 - b. In Mark 8 in a context addressing the need to deny oneself and follow Him Jesus warned, “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be **ashamed of him** when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels” (Mk. 8:38).
 - 2. Faithfulness to our confession of Jesus as the resurrected Christ, the Son of God, is **required!**
- C. Condition and reality: “If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.” (2:13)
 - 1. Being **faithless** means **failing to be true** to one’s professed faith in Jesus as Lord (Lk. 6:46-49 – “Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? ⁴⁷ Everyone who comes to Me and **hears My words and acts on them**, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, **the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.** ⁴⁹ But the one who has **heard and has not acted accordingly**, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the **torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.**”).
 - 2. That **Jesus remains faithful** means that though human’s may be fickle, God keeps his promises, whether it be to **reward** the faithful or **deny** those who deny him.
 - 3. Why? Because God cannot deny, or contradict, himself.
 - a. As God He cannot lie and must, therefore, be eternally consistent and true to Himself and His word (Heb. 6:17-18).
 - b. So, any thought that God will fudge on the details of our life or wink His eye at rebellion and denial is foolish! We cannot hope to be the exception to the rule.
 - c. That is not God and that is not how He works!

CONCLUSION:

- 1. I hope that you will accept this “trustworthy statement” and heed to its encouragement and warnings concerning remaining faithful to Christ and His will, even in the face of trials and persecution.
- 2. For, God and His word can be trusted completely.
 - A. So, the life and honor he offers to those who are faithful to him, who die to self and endure, is real and can be yours if you will trust and obey Him.
 - B. But, His denial and its eternal consequences are also real you can trust that they will be yours if you turn back on your confession or refuse to come to Him in faith.
- 3. So, my friends, the choice is yours. What will you do with Jesus? That is the question!
 - A. If you are not a Christian, one who has come to Him in F-R-C-BP, will you do so right now?

B. If you are a Christian but have denied the lord in disobedience, will you come in R-C-P?