

“I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED”

Introduction

- 1) **2 Timothy 1:12** – “I know whom I have believed...”
- 2) A great expression of faith by the apostle Paul as he faces the end of his life (cf. 4:6)
- 3) His desire is to further motivate Timothy in his labor as an evangelist (1:6-7, 13; 2:3, 15; 3:14; 4:1-2)
- 4) Paul uses his own faith and work as an example (2:9-10; 3:10-11; 4:7, 16-17)
- 5) We will examine his statement of faith (1:12) and its context

I) “**For This Reason I Also Suffer These Things**”

- A) Paul exhorted Timothy to not be ashamed of the Lord’s testimony or of him as prisoner (1:8)
 - 1) There are those who are ashamed of the truth and those who stand for it (1:15-16)
 - a) Teach error and rebuke faithful servants of God
- B) Paul suffered for the gospel to which he was appointed as a preacher, apostle, and teacher
 - 1) *Worth suffering for* – saved and called with holy calling by grace in Christ, abolished death and brought eternal life to light “through the gospel” (1:8-10)
 - 2) Timothy must not be ashamed, but be willing to share in that suffering without fear or compromise (2:1, 3; 3:12; 4:5; Heb. 13:23)

II) “**Nevertheless I Am Not Ashamed**”

- A) Paul was not ashamed of his suffering
 - 1) Normally, an evildoer should be ashamed (cf. Jer. 2:26a), but Paul was no evildoer
- B) Paul suffered for his diligent and uncompromising service to the risen Christ (2:8-9)
 - 1) Not ashamed of the gospel (Rom. 1:16; Lk. 9:26) or his labor (2 Tim. 2:15)

III) “**For I Know Whom I Have Believed**”

- A) Paul put his complete faith and trust in God and His promises (Gal. 2:20; Phil. 3:8-11)
- B) We come to know Jesus through His revealed word (Eph. 4:20-21)
 - 1) Faith comes from knowledge – cannot have faith in what we do not know (Rom. 10:17)

IV) “**And Am Persuaded That He Is Able**”

- A) Paul was fully confident in God’s ability to do and keep His word
 - 1) Man is often weak, vacillating, or deceptive as to his promises – who to trust? (Psa. 118:8; Prov. 3:5)
- B) We should live with the full assurance that God is able to work His will (Eph. 3:20)

V) “**To Keep What I Have Committed To Him Until That Day**”

- A) “To keep” = *guard*; “What I have committed to Him” = *an entrusted deposit*
- B) What had Paul committed to God? His life in faithful service and suffering (2:9-10; 4:7)
 - 1) Entrusting our soul’s welfare, judgment, and reward in God’s hands
 - 2) Paul trusted God to keep His gracious and faithful promise of rest and reward for the faithful (2:10-13; 4:8, 18)
- C) Some translations render this as “guard what has been entrusted to me”
 - 1) Paul does speak often of the great ministry of the gospel given to him and others that must be guarded and fought for (1 Tim. 1:18; 6:20; 2 Tim. 1:14; 2:2)
- D) We can be assured that God will guard what is entrusted!

Conclusion

Let us possess strong faith that is fully persuaded about God’s promises. Do you have this faith?