

## Assurance, the Believers Great Hope and Comfort

*2 Tim 1:7-12 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.*

Paul is writing this letter to Timothy from a prison. His crime? The proclamation of the gospel. One might say the threat of death is before him, but Paul sees it as the receiving of that crown of life promised all believers. Christians of that day lived under a constant threat of imprisonment, possible torture and being put to death for their faith. Paul Himself closes this letter with these words, *“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.”* (Tim 4:6-7) He will soon face death for the testimony of our Lord, yet he says, *“God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”* (2 Timothy 1:7) A spirit of power to be triumphant in persecution, for God has blessed his church with the ability to have courage and to rest in God even though man’s hatred is being fiercely poured out upon them. A spirit of love, a love for God, a love for His truth and a love to proclaim that truth to the very ones who hated them. And with a sound mind, a sure knowledge that there is no value in gaining this world’s approval and friendship while losing one’s soul, but there is wisdom in realizing that one may lose thing temporal but will gain things eternal in serving the Lord Jesus Christ remembering the words of Christ, *“. . . whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”* Knowing that there is no profit in gaining the world if in the process one will lose his soul. (cf. Matt 16:25-26) Paul then instructs Timothy not to be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord, even though it has caused Paul to be a prisoner in chains.

He then proceeds to explain the Christian’s reason for courage in trial and in conflict. They have been called of God by grace alone; they have a certain knowledge of Christ; and full assurance of forgiveness and acceptance in Christ.

### A. They are called of God

*who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ*

1. First cause for praise here is that we are not called according to our works
  - a. If it were according to our works not one of us would be saved
  - b. If God had looked down in the annals of time to see who He would call according to their good works we would be in deep trouble.

*Ps 14:2-3 The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, **no, not one.***

- c. Not one of us would be saved on that basis
    - d. Thus we read He called us according to His purpose and grace
  2. The result of that calling is salvation - *God has saved us and called us with a holy calling*
    - a. Saved from God’s wrath
    - b. Saved from eternal damnation

3. Given us in Christ Jesus before time began
  - a. What God has purposed will come to pass
  - b. And indeed was made manifest in time
  - c. Paul could point to the cross and proclaim the work has been accomplished - *has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ*

B. They have a certain knowledge of Christ - *for I know whom I have believed*

1. Christianity is not a mere emotional experience
2. True faith is first a sure knowledge first that you accept God's word as true
  - a. True in its promises
  - b. True in its content - true history of redemption

## 21. What is true faith?

True faith is not only a sure knowledge, whereby I hold for truth all that God has revealed to us in His Word, but also a hearty trust, which the Holy Ghost works in me by the Gospel, that not only to others, but to me also, forgiveness of sins, everlasting righteousness, and salvation are freely given by God, merely of grace, only for the sake of Christ's merits.

3. It is a personal trust in Christ and what He has provided for you as revealed in the gospel

C. This results in a full assurance of forgiveness and acceptance in Christ. - *am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.*

1. Our hope is not a maybe so faith
2. He is persuaded that God is able to keep what we committed unto Him until that Day
3. This persuasion is founded upon the work of Christ
  - a. God laid on Him all our sin
  - b. Jesus was our substitute, i.e., He suffered the wrath of God in our place

*1 Thess 1:10 "... wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even **Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.**"*

- c. This is why our Lord is able to keep those sins we've committed unto Himself
- d. We know there is now no condemnation for us who are in Christ Jesus (cf. Rom. 8:1)
- e. Christ will present us before the Father without sin

*Jude 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to **present you faultless before the presence of His glory** with exceeding joy,*

CONCLUSION: Death has been abolished the power of Satan had been destroyed

*Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel*

Brought this hope to light through the gospel

Made manifest to us that we have life and immortality

Here is the promise from Christ Himself

*John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*

*John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.*

*Do you believe this?"*