

I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED

2 TIMOTHY 1:12 • TV157B

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2 Timothy 1:12

“For the which cause 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 that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

I really believe that my message today will be used by the Lord God to help some people who are interested in the saving faith in Jesus Christ; that’s my subject: “SAVING FAITH” or let’s give it this title: “I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED.”

All faith is not saving faith. All professions of religion are not genuine. Our Master said, “*Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of God.*”

He said, “*Many will say unto me in that day, Lord; have we not preached in your name and cast out devils in your name and done many wonderful works in your name?*” “*I will profess unto them, I never knew you. Depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*”

Paul said, we are exhorted to “*examine ourselves whether we be in the faith. Know ye not your own selves, how Christ is in you except you be a reprobate?*” Examine yourselves!

So, this is an important subject with which I am dealing today, saving faith, a saving interest in Christ.

I am turning to **2nd Timothy 1:12** in which Paul wrote, *“For the which cause I also suffer these things, nevertheless, I am not ashamed for I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”*

Paul was in prison when he wrote these words. This is one of his last epistles. He was in prison and wrote this epistle to young Timothy. Paul was chained to a soldier; he was awaiting execution for preaching the Gospel.

Besides all this, he was lonely because he had been forsaken and deserted by many who he believed to be his friends. He said, *“You know Timothy, that all that are in Asia are turned against me.”*

He said in **2nd Timothy 4:10**; *“Demas hath forsaken me having loved this present world, only Luke is with me.”* He said, in **2nd Timothy 4:16**; *“At my first trial no man stood with me, (no man, all were offended), all forsook me.”*

So, here is this old apostle, a preacher of the Gospel, sitting in a prison cell in Rome, awaiting execution, deserted by friends; *“only Luke is with me.”* He was writing to a young preacher, named Timothy.

At the beginning of this epistle he exhorts Timothy to several things:

First of all: He said, *“Timothy; don’t be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord (the Gospel).”*

What is the testimony of our Lord, what is the Gospel of our Lord? Paul said, *“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”*

He said, *“Whosoever believeth shall not be ashamed.”* Our Master said, *“If you are ashamed of me and of my words, before this sinful and adulteress generation, I will be ashamed of you when I come in glory with my holy angels.”*

So, that is the first thing Paul says to this young man; *“don’t be ashamed of the gospel.”*

Secondly: Then he adds in **2nd Timothy verse 8**, *“Don’t be ashamed of those who preach the gospel.”*

Many people are; they will brag on dead prophets but they crucify living prophets. They will brag on Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Huss, Whitfield, Knox and Spurgeon and all of these fellows, but men who preach what those men preached; men today, they have no use for them. They

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don't want to be identified with them. It's just not in their nature to be identified with a hated Gospel.

I read the story of an old Puritan who had been on trial for his life for believing and preaching the Gospel before a religious judge. He wouldn't answer the judge's question; he wouldn't recant on these particular points.

The judge looked at him amazed and said, "Man; don't you know that I have the power to release you? I have the power to set you free." The preacher said, "I know it's in your power, but it's just not in your nature."

That's our problem; it's the nature, that's our problem. Here, Paul says, "*Timothy; don't be ashamed of the gospel and don't be ashamed of people who preach it.*"

That takes a regenerated heart. A man's just not going forth into the battle until he has a cause. A man is not going forth into the fire until he has a cause. If his baby's in the burning building he will go after it. That's what I am saying; it's in the nature; that is where the whole problem is.

Thirdly: He says, "Timothy; don't be ashamed of the Gospel and don't be ashamed of people who preach it; stand with them"

"*Don't be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.*" What fellowship does light have with darkness?" I don't see how some of you can go to church where you go; there is no Gospel preached, there is no glory given to God, there is no worship.

There are fun and games, competition, and social clubs. You may say, "I've always gone there; my mother and daddy went there; I helped build that old building. You better burn it down and move out and go where the Gospel is preached.

What fellowship does Baal have with Christ, a false god with a living God, and darkness with light? Don't you be ashamed of those who are preaching the Gospel; you better be identified with them.

If you are going to stand eternity in glory with them it would be a good idea to get acquainted with them and their Lord down here.

Thirdly: Paul said, "*Timothy; be thou a partaker of the afflictions of the gospel* (you be ready yourself to share in the afflictions of the Gospel because you are going to be called upon to suffer for my sake)." "Be ready to pay whatever price you have to pay to be true to Christ."

Now, that has always been so. The Scripture says, "*All who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution*, (not some, all). My Lord said, "*In this world, you shall have tribulation.*"

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He said, “*I didn’t come to bring peace.*” We have peace in our hearts. We have peace with God and we have peace among believers but there is no peace in this world. “*I came to bring a sword,*” Christ said.

Those are the three things he said to Timothy about the Gospel. Don’t be ashamed of it, it is a testimony of our Lord. Don’t be ashamed of those who he has commissioned and sent to preach it. You get ready yourself to pay the price and to suffer the afflictions with God’s people.

Moses chose to do that. Rather than to live in the luxury and riches of Egypt, he chose to suffer the afflictions of Jesus Christ and be identified with God’s people.

In **verses 9 and 10** of this chapter Paul identifies this Gospel of which he is not ashamed, this Gospel that he exhorts Timothy to preach; “*preach the word.*” He identifies this Gospel for which he was persecuted, the Gospel that he commits to faithful men.

Look hard at it; look at **verse 9!** What is this Gospel? Look at **verse 9:** “*Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling.*” Who saved us? God saved us; He saved us! It is the work of God for us and not our work for God. It’s the work of God for us and in us.

There was a dear old lady who lived next door to Dr. Glenville, down in Texas, years and years ago. He was out in his flower garden one day and she went over to visit with him and she said to him; “Dr. Glenville, you are a Baptist preacher aren’t you?”

He said, “Yes mam. She said; “You Baptists believe in election don’t you?” He said, “Yes mam.” She said, “Why don’t you explain it to me?” He said, “Explain election to you?” She said, “Yes sir; I wish you would.”

He said, “Well; are you saved?” She said, “Yes sir.” He said, “Who saved you?” She said, “God did.” He said, “Was it an accident or did God save you on purpose?” She said, “He saved me on purpose.” He said, “That’s election.”

Everything that God does He does on purpose. He saved us, He called us, He justified us, He redeemed us, and He glorified us. It is all of God. It’s not “I, I, I; it is He, He, He.” That’s this message of salvation; “*salvation is of the Lord.*”

“*It is he that hath made us and not we ourselves.*” Our Lord said, “*As many as received Christ to them gave he power to become the sons of God. We are born, not of blood, (not of fleshly inheritance), not of the will of man, not of the will of the flesh but of God.*” We are born of God!

The salvation of the righteous is of God and of Him only. James said, “*Of His own will begat he us.*” Paul said, “*I will be merciful to whom I will be merciful. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious. It’s not of him that willeth nor him that runneth but it is of God that showeth mercy.*”

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So, he says this first to Timothy. “God saved us!” What’s your testimony, what you have done for God or what God has done for you? Paul says here in this Gospel of which he is not ashamed and for which he suffered and died, is the Gospel of God that, “*saved us and called us with a holy calling.*”

Now; watch the next point: “*Not according to our works.*”

“*It’s not of works lest any man should boast.*” Our salvation is not something that we’ve done for God, but something that God has done for us.

You see; God owes us nothing but condemnation; salvation is a gift of God. It’s His gift, His free gift, His full gift, His own gift, and His eternal gift.

“*Our righteousness is filthy rags.*” I wish that I could get that across to myself and to you that when we have done everything we ought to have done, and we haven’t done that; we are unprofitable servants.

Even our righteousness’s are filthy rags in God’s sight because there is no perfection in them. Anything that is not perfect is defiled in God’s sight. Anything that is not absolutely holy is defiled.

So, we have to have a righteousness that exceeds the very best that a man can produce. “*Man at his best state is altogether vanity.*” One old Puritan said, “Our repentance needs to be repented of. Our tears need to be washed in the blood of Christ. Even our gifts and prayers have too much self and sin for God to accept them apart from Christ’s sacrifice.”

“*For it is not of works; lest any man should boast.*” He saved us and called us not according to our works but according to His mercy, according to His grace.

Watch this: This salvation is an eternal gift; it’s according to His grace that was given to us in Christ. When was it given to us? It was given “*before the world began.*”

Let me ask you three questions: Would you tarry a moment, don’t get too upset, and just deal with these three questions, three very simple questions?

That’s what we need, simplicity in our preaching. We need more sincerity and simplicity. Let me ask you this!

Did you choose God or did he choose you? Well, you will have to answer, “He chose me.” Christ said to the disciples; “*You didn’t choose me; I chose you.*” You are chosen in Christ.

Secondly: When did God choose you?

Somebody said, “When I believed.” Is that what the Bible said? You know that’s not what the Scripture teaches. The Scripture says, “*We were chosen in Christ before the world began, (before the foundation of the world).*” It says that a half dozen times.

Thirdly: Why did God choose you?

He’s passed by the fallen angels. He passed by the Babylonians, Medes and the Persians. He passed by the gentiles for thousands of years. He’s passed by many in other countries, and then chose you? Why?

Were you better, smarter, holier, or more righteous? The Scripture says, “*There are none good; there is none that seeketh after God. There is none that understandeth; they are all together become unprofitable.*”

Why did God choose you? Read the Bible; “*according the good pleasure of his own will.*” Christ said, “*Father; you have hid these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes.*” “*God hath chosen the foolish things to confound the wise. God hath chosen the base things and the despised and the things which are naught to bring to naught the things that are that no flesh should glory in his sight.*”

What am I saying? I am saying that salvation is of the Lord. It’s not according to our works, not according to our merit, not according to what we deserve, but it is according to His grace and His mercy which was given to us in Jesus Christ, through Jesus Christ, for the glory of Jesus Christ before this world ever had a being, before it ever had a beginning. That is what this Book says.

You can find a Sears Roebuck catalogue or Poor Richard’s Almanac if you want to for your religion, but this Book says, God foreknew and He predestinated, “*whom he predestinated, he called, whom he called, he justified, and whom he justified, he glorified.*”

“*What shall we say to these things?*” Well, I will tell you what I say, “*if God be for us, who can be against us?*”

The next point he brings out is: The Gospel of divine visitation!

He says here, “*It is now made manifest.*” It was in promise, prophecy, and picture for hundreds of years. “*It is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ.*” Jesus Christ came into this world. He manifested everything that God purposed, everything that God planned, and everything that God ordained.

The Bible talks about three appearances of Christ in reference to the believer, all in **Hebrews 9**: It says, “*He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*” It says in **verse 24** of **Hebrews 9**: “*He now appears in heaven interceding for us.*”

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It says in **verse 28 of chapter 9 of Hebrews**: “*He will appear again the second time without sin unto salvation.*” The Lord Jesus Christ is the Alpha and the Omega of our salvation. He is the author and finisher of our faith. He is the beginning and the end.

In the next place in **verse 10**: He says, This is the Gospel of an effectual work. “*God Almighty 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 us in Christ before the foundation of the world.*”

But is now made manifest in these last days for you, to you, by Jesus Christ “*who hath abolished death: (who has put it away) and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*”

He cried from the cross; “*It is finished.*” The law is honored, justice is satisfied, redemption is complete, and the atonement has been made;

“Tis done; the great transaction’s done.
I am my Lord’s and He is mine.
He drew me and I followed on
Charmed to confess his voice divine.”

Now, **verse 11**: “*Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.*”

Paul was appointed by God and sent by God as a preacher of this Gospel! “I am not a preacher of church truth; I am a preacher of God’s Gospel.” God didn’t send Paul to baptize, or to carry out all of the ordinances, (although, they are important).

He said, “He sent me to preach the Gospel, to be true to his Word, and to be true to the souls of men, and true to my calling. In spite of the persecution, in spite of the rejection, in spite of denial, in spite of the suffering, in spite of death, I am not ashamed.” You see; that is what led up to this whole statement in **2nd Timothy 1:12**: “*Nevertheless; I am not ashamed.*”

Now, three things I will give you in closing:

First of all: He said; “*I am not ashamed; I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day.*”

What did Paul know? What is Paul persuaded of? What had Paul done? Let’s look at it:

He said, “*I know whom; I have believed.*” He didn’t say “I know what I believe.” You will hear people say; Well, I know what I believe.” They sure like to argue about it too.

Paul didn’t say, “I know what I believe.” I’m sure he knew what he believed, but he believed the “*whom,*” not a what. “*I know whom I have believed.*” There is a difference!

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He didn't say, "I know when I believed." I'm sure he knew when he believed, but that is not what he is saying. A lot of people can take you to the day, the hour, and the place, the experience and the feeling. If that thing ever disappears they are done for.

Paul said, "*I know whom.*" I'm not particularly interested in when God saved you as I am if God saved you or if you did it yourself or some preacher did it or some high pressured evangelist did it or you just got caught up in the emotions, or the psychology of the hour and you walked down and shook somebody's hand and your heart is empty as that profession was.

It's not "I know when," "*it is I know whom.*" Paul didn't say, "Well; I know a lot about the Bible." I run into people who say that all the time. They like to trick the preacher. They like to find some misquote, you know.

He is quoting the Bible and he misquotes a verse here, you know, and they say; "you misquoted that and I know my Bible." Well, do you know Him of whom it is written? Do you know Him who is the Song of Songs, who is the bright and morning star, the lily of the valley, the rose of Sharon and the fairest of ten thousand? Do you know Him?

"*I know whom I have believed.*" The Gospel is a person; it is a person; it is not a fact, it is not a creed, it is not a catechism, it is not orthodoxy, it is not an ordinance, and it is not a law. It's a person, a living person.

"*I know whom I have believed.*" I know that He is very God of very God. "*God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself.*" He said, "*I and my Father are one.*" Philip said, "*Show us the Father.*" Christ said, "*He that hath seen me hath seen my Father.*"

I know that He came to save sinners. He said, "*I came to seek and to save the lost.*" Paul said, "*This is a faithful saying; it is worthy of acceptance by all men, (under all conditions). Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief.*"

I know that He is my representative; "*In Adam all die and in Christ we are made alive. By one man's disobedience the many were made sinners. By the obedience of one many were made righteous.*" He's my representative.

I know that He was without sin. God said, "*This is my beloved Son; hear ye him.*" I'm pleased with Him.

I know that He died to redeem sinners. Peter said, "*For as much you know that you were not redeemed by corruptible things such as silver and gold or the vain conversation received by traditions from your fathers but with the precious blood of Christ as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*" I know that; "*I know whom I have believed.*"

I know He arose from the dead. I know that He ascended to heaven. I know that He sat down at the right hand of God and I know that He will come again. He's not a myth, He's not a historical character, He's not an influence; He is a living Lord.

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I don't carry a cross around in my pocket to remind me that He is still alive, either. I don't have a statue for which I bow. I worship and adore a living Lord who reigns in heaven and reigns on the earth and who reigns in the hearts of His people.

It's as real and as personal as your own heart and your own spirit. That's what Paul knew; "*I know whom I have believed.*"

Paul was persuaded of something too. He said, "*I'm not ashamed; I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day.*"

There are two requirements of one who would discharge another's debt, two requirements. Do you know what they are? There are two requirements of one who will discharge another's debt!

First of all: He must be able and willing! There are a lot of people who are willing to bail you out but they are not able. There are a lot of people who are able but are not willing. If a man is going to discharge another's debt he has to be willing and able.

Christ discharges our debts because He is willing. He said, "*No man takes my life from me; I lay it down.*" The perfect Saviour, the perfect Substitute, the perfect Sacrifice, came willingly to bear our sins.

"*Having loved his own he loved them to the end, (even to the cross of Calvary).*" He is willing; God so loved that He gave His Son. His Son so loved that He came and He died.

Secondly: He is able! Paul said, "*I am persuaded that he is able.*" He is able to honor the law having fulfilled it. He is able to satisfy justice having died from its curse.

He is able. Four things; are you listening?

1). He is able to do all that he promised, that was the basis of Abraham's faith in **Romans 4:21**: "*Abraham believed that God was able to do all that he promised.*"

2). Paul said in **Hebrews 7:25**, "*He is able, to save to the uttermost, them that come to God by him.*" I don't care to how far down in sin you have gone, how black your past or present. I don't care what you have done. God is able; "*He delights to show mercy.*" He said, "*I came to call sinners, not the righteous to repentance.*"

I have no message for the goody, goody, self-righteous, pious, hypocrites, in this world. I have a message for sinners. If you are a sinner, I can tell you about a Saviour who is able to save to the uttermost and from the guttermost them that come to God by him.

Why is he able? He's the father's choice; He's the Father's choice. He's the God-man! God was in Christ.

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3). He paid the debt *“in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin through his blood.”* He arose and there is one Mediator at God’s right hand, just one. Christ is the Father’s choice who came to the earth, died on the cross, bled, died, and rose again. He’s the one that’s seated on the throne and He’s the one in whom all fullness is vested in Christ. That’s the reason he is able.

4). In **Jude 1:24** it says, *“He is able to keep us from falling and to present us faultless in his presence with exceeding joy.”* Paul said in **Philippians 3**, *“He is able to raise our vile bodies and make them like his own.”* The Lord Jesus Christ is able.

Who’s going to raise you from the dead, the church? Do you trust your priest or your preacher? Will he raise you from the dead? He can’t raise himself. We want to be raised by the same power that raised Christ from the dead.

Paul went on in **Romans 8**: *“I am persuaded.”* I like this passage so much. There was a young man dying in a hospital and a preacher came by to see him and he shook his hand and said, “What denomination are you?”

He said, “I’m just a believer.” The preacher said, “What’s your persuasion?” The young man said, *“I’m persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate me from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ my Lord.”* “That is my persuasion!” That was Paul’s persuasion. *“He is able.”*

Then Paul said, *“He is able to keep that which I have committed to him.”* Sitting there in prison, sitting there in prison old and alone, awaiting death, forsaken by all but God, (some authorities believed Paul to be crazy.) That’s right! They said, *“Much learning, Paul, hath made you mad.”* He was ridiculed by the multitudes, forgotten by his friends.

Paul confronts the whole world with a holy boldness and he said, *“nevertheless; I’m not ashamed; I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that he (and he alone) is able to keep that which I’ve committed to him.”*

Paul, what did you commit to Christ? “I committed my soul, my life, my possessions, my hope, and my body; all belong to Him.”

“My sins, oh the bliss
Of that glorious thought,
My sin not in part
But the whole,

Are nailed to his cross
And I bear them no more,
Praise the Lord

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It is well with my soul.”

One more word and I will quit, “*He is able to keep that which I have committed to him, against that day.*” That day is going to dawn for you and for me pretty soon. What day are we talking about? The day of death; that is what we are talking about, the day of resurrection, (first or second), the Day of Judgment and the day which begins an endless eternity.

There are four words that are important to you and to me. There are four things that I am going to be involved in; I have a life to live and I’m already living it. I have a death to die, as sure as God is in heaven. I have a judgment to face and I have got an eternity to spend.

That’s the reason I believe that I can say with Paul, “I have committed it all to Christ,” the life in Him, the resurrection in Him, judgment born by Him, and eternity with Him!