

# HE IS ABLE TO KEEP

## 2 TIMOTHY 1:12

Text: 2 Timothy 1:12

### **2 Timothy 1:12**

<sup>12</sup> 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.

Introduction:

In this verse, the Apostle Paul makes a bold statement concerning his salvation. He tells us that he is confident that his salvation is eternal in nature. But, is it really? Is salvation something we can count on, or is it something we must simply hope will work out for us in the end? Can a Christian truly have absolute assurance that he or she is saved? And, can the Christian be sure that he or she will never be lost again? Is there anything you or I could do that would cause Jesus to take away our salvation? Is it possible for us to decide that we didn't want to be a Christian anymore and lose it that way? What I am asking is can God really keep you saved?

Most people would say "No!" Most denominations hold a view that says man can, by the exercise of his own free will turn from God to sin at any time and be lost. This is the view held by the Methodists,

Wesleyans, Free Will Baptists, Lutherans, Episcopalians, most holiness and charismatic groups, and the Anglican Church.

Can salvation be lost as the majority of the church world teaches? Or, is salvation an eternal gift that can never be taken back? I believe that Paul clears up the issue in this verse.

## **1. PAUL'S CONVERSION**

### **A. Involved A Person "Whom"**

#### **2 Timothy 1:12**

<sup>12</sup> 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.

When Paul was saved on the way to Damascus, his conversion was the direct result of meeting a person, Acts 9:4-6.

It took a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ to bring about Paul's salvation.

### **B. Involved A Plan**

Notice that Paul says that his conversion was the result of "belief." Salvation cannot be worked up or prayed down. It can only be accomplished through simple faith.

See

John 3:16, Romans 10:9, John 3:36

Salvation only comes by faith.

What is faith? The word faith is defined as "complete confidence, trust or reliance." Faith, in regard to God, means having total trust in Jesus Christ for the salvation of one's soul. It mean trusting Jesus, Him alone, and Him completely for salvation. Faith is absolutely essential for salvation. Faith also implies letting go of one's self-effort. Being saved means that we are to trust Jesus Christ and Him alone for the salvation of our souls.

### C. Involved A Permanence

Notice the use of the words "I have believed." In the Greek, this means that it is an action that has been completed in the past, once and for all, not needing to be repeated ever.

Paul is saying that when he placed his faith in Jesus Christ, it was a one time for all time action. He says that what was accomplished then was also finished then. Paul knows that his salvation is a permanent thing. It never needs to be redone and will last forever.

## 2. PAUL'S CONFIDENCE

### A. Based In the Person of God

Paul says this, "I know in Whom I have believed." The word know means to "know by personal experience." Paul is telling us that he has the confidence he does in the Lord because he knows the Lord. He has experienced God's power first hand and he knows what God can do.

People who have assurance of salvation have a strong personal faith in God. They believe in a God who is all-powerful. One who does what He has promised and One who is able to bring about salvation. Those who doubt whether or not God can save them and keep them saved often have an imperfect view of who God is.

### B. Based In the Power of God

Next Paul reminds us that God is "able". This word simply means that God has the power to do a thing. Paul tells us that his salvation, and our as well, is based in the power of God. Peter tells us that we are "kept by the power of God", 1 Pet. 1:5.

In simple terms, our salvation is only as strong as God's power to keep us saved. The bottom line is this, if our salvation depends on anything less than the power of

God, then we are all hopelessly lost. If those who teach that a clean, holy life is essential to maintaining one's state of salvation, then we are all going to Hell. If, however, salvation is maintained by the power of God alone, then we have nothing to fear.

### C. Based In the Promises of God

Paul tells us that he is "persuaded" about God's ability to preserve the soul. Paul's confidence is not a blind leap into the dark, but it is a confidence based squarely upon the precious promises of God.

Notice the promises related to salvation that you and I can count on:

- Salvation Is By Grace Not Works – Ephesians 2:8-9
- Everlasting Means Exactly That – John 6:47, John 3:16
- Everlasting Life Is a Present Possession – John 3:36
- Salvation Is Christ's Gift and Will Never Be Revoked – John 10:28
- Nothing Can Remove Us From His Hand – John 10:28-29

- The Believer Is No Longer Condemned – Romans 8:1, John 5:24
- Sin Is Not Charged To the Believer – Romans 4:5-8
- Nothing Can Separate the Believer From the Love of God – Romans 8:38-39
- The Believer Will Never be Cast Out – John 6:37
- The Believer Has Been Born Again and Cannot Be Unborn – John 3:3, 5-7
- The Believer Is Called a Child of God and the Father Child Relationship Is One That Cannot Be Ended – 1 John 3:2

### **3. PAUL'S COMMITMENT**

#### **A. He Committed His Soul**

Paul was trusting Jesus with his eternal soul. I believe that this is the "that" he was speaking of in this verse.

#### **B. He Committed His Service**

Paul had given his life, after salvation, to doing what the Lord wanted him to do. Paul's total surrender was

based in the knowledge that the Lord had saved him with a perfect salvation that would last for all eternity.

Such a gift demands such a surrender!

### C. He Committed His Salvation

As this verse closes, Paul speaks of "that day." He is writing about the day when he must leave this world and face the Lord in judgment.

Paul knew that when "that day" came he would be found in Jesus, regardless of what happened down here in this life, Phil. 3:9.

Close:

There is no way I can present a complete discussion on a topic.

The most important thing that we can take from this is  
Are We Saved?

If we are saved are we serving?