

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known  
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

## Promises on Which You Can Bank, Pt 6

2 Timothy 2:11-13

**Keywords:** Salvation, Reigning with Christ, Died with Christ, Assurance, Perseverance

**PowerPoint Presentation included:** NONE

**Sermon Audio Blurb:** Paul brings to an end a key section of this final letter. He does so through apparently quoting an ancient hymn that sums up the various experiences of a professing Christian, but more importantly key promises given by God.

Pray for John Herrin's sermon. Praise for Carenet baby bottles.  
Pray for Fran Casperson. *Action Parks*

### I. Introduction.

A. If you are Christ's then you cannot lose (11-12a).

1. We shall live with Him.
2. We shall reign with Him.

B. If you abandon Jesus you can only lose (12b).

1. What are the causes of apostasy?
2. It seldom occurs overnight.
3. It happens when teaching reveals sin.
4. It involves a rejection of sound doctrine—especially the gospel.
5. Tribulation and persecution will turn many hearts from the gospel
6. A desire to have ears tickled.
7. A general state of unrest/lawlessness.
8. A life according to the flesh

C. Two very important promises and both must be kept in your mind. The third promise is . . . .

### II. If you struggle in your faith you will find that Jesus supports you (13).

A. Here we find him ending with a word of hope and encouragement.

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- B. Some see this verse as saying that if you have no faith, Jesus is still faithful in that He shall judge and punish you. I don't think that is the point at all.
- C. Instead, it had in view the idea that points to those lapses of loyalty to Christ.
  - 1. This could be a good word of encouragement to repent and return for the many who have fled and abandoned Paul in his shame.
  - 2. When the bible speaks of God's faithfulness it is almost always in the fact that he is utterly faithful to his promises. And that is bound up in his nature, he cannot deny himself.
- D. If it is a promise then it speaks to the persevering work of Jesus in the lives of His people.
  - 1. All Christians experience times of faithlessness.
  - 2. It is not a denial of Jesus, it is the battle of continuing in faith in those multitude of ways all of you experience.
- E. Listen, this is at the core of what is known as the doctrine/teaching of perseverance.
  - 1. The trick is not to put it all on yourself and just "make faithfulness happen."
  - 2. It is remembering that salvation was and is all through the grace of God in Jesus Christ.
  - 3. Hebrews 12-1-2:
    - a. It is Jesus who began your faith and it is Jesus who will finish it.
    - b. So you do not focus on your level of faithfulness *per se*. Rather, you focus on Jesus and in doing so you make it your habit to put off anything that distracts from Him.
    - c. But in those times you are slow to do so, he is ever the faithful one.
    - d. And in the end you will find that because of His work on the Cross and because of His resurrection and because of His active obedience while on earth and because of His faithful priestly intercession, if you continue to hope in Him he will bring you through to the end.
- F. He is unable to deny himself because salvation is ultimately rooted in the faithfulness of God. Praise God that this is true.

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- G. This reminds us of the essence of the gospel message, that though we were dead and helpless, enemies of God; He in his rich mercy came to us through His Son Jesus and lifted us up and said, "Live."

## III. How to persevere.

- A. There needs to be a distinction between the objective versus the subjective aspects of salvation.
1. If one truly is in Christ then there shall be objective truths about that person that are not affected by feelings and thoughts.
  2. However, it is not uncommon for that same person to lack assurance at times based upon various situations.
- B. There is an important distinction to be made between the subjective, man-oriented understanding of perseverance and the God-oriented perspective.
1. The first only can see a person's profession of faith and its potential. But the call to press on, to not fall away, to endure to the end naturally creates questions.
  2. The second simply declares what God already knows, that those purchased by Christ are secure in Christ for all eternity.
- C. Objective.
1. God knows who are His.
  2. Ephesians 1:4
  3. John 6:34-40, 47.
  4. John 10:26-30
- D. Subjective.
1. Assurance is subject to change.
  2. Jude 1:20ff
    - a. The command is to keep yourself in the love of God. To continue to love God. The way you do this is three things:
      - (1) You build yourself on your holy faith.
        - (a) This is not speaking of your personal faith but "the faith".

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- (b) The first step to perseverance is to be strong in the knowledge of truth, sound doctrine and true wisdom.
- (c) It is a call back to sound, rich doctrine.
- (2) Pray in the Spirit.
  - (a) This is not some deep spiritual experience that you have.
  - (b) It is the awareness that perseverance and spiritual growth is not just a process of acquiring knowledge.
  - (c) It is knowing that you are dependent upon the work of the Spirit to grow your faith and establish you in the faith.
  - (d) To pray in the Spirit simply means to pray consistent with the Spirit's will, to pray consistently with the Spirit's will. To pray yielded to the Holy Spirit.
  - (e) And it is always consistent to the Word. In fact you can't pray in the Spirit if you don't know the Spirit's Word.
  - (f) But when you pray in the Spirit you are praying in such a manner that is consistent with the Spirit.
- (3) Keep your mind on the return of Christ.
  - (a) The time where mercy is fully realized.
  - (b) We are to be training our mind to be expectant.
  - (c) It puts us in the right frame of mind by not allowing this age to define us.
- b. Vss 22-23 (explain).
- c. Vss 24-25.
  - (1) Understand that God is the one who ultimately brings you through to the end.

#1

Strong preaching can easily cause doubt, particularly in a sinning Christian. So the pulpit if it has the luxury of being the creator of anxiety, of anxious hearts, the pulpit must also be the creator of comfort. It must be the place of assurance.

1 John is similar. 5:13, he wrote the epistle that they may know that they have eternal life.

11 tests: *When I am starting my 2 Pet*

The Puritans would say, "Tested then trusted."

- Are you enjoying fellowship with Christ and God?
- Are you sensitive to sin in your life?
- are you obedient to God? Is it a pattern of your life to obey?
- do you reject the world? Do you love the system of the world?
- Do you love Christ and eagerly wait for His return?
- do you see a decreasing pattern of sin in your life?
- Do you love other Christians?
- do you experience answered prayer
- Do you experience the ministry of the Holy Spirit?
- can you discern between spiritual truth and error?
- Have you been rejected for your faith?

John 1:12 might be a starting place, just to tie it in to a specific verse. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name." So you say to someone, "Did you receive Him?" Yes...major premise, anyone who receives Him becomes His child. "Did you do that?" Yes, minor premise, you just did that, conclusion: you're His child. Major premise says if you receive Christ you'll be His child. Minor premise says you just did that. Conclusion says you're His child.

You say, "Well, that's logical." It is. It is. The problem is you don't know whether the minor premise is true.

Moral Excellence:

Now I want you to look at these. We don't need to spend a lot of time, but you'll be very refreshed as you see what Peter means. First one is moral excellence, arete, it's the word virtue...virtue. In classical times the word meant the God-given ability to perform heroic deeds. And it came to mean the quality of someone's life which makes them stand out as excellent. It is very rare, by the way, in Scripture but not in secular Greek. It is a noble term. It is a term of heroism. It is a term of moral heroism, moral excellence, quality. It was usually used to refer to the proper and excellent fulfillment of something. For example, a knife was said to be arete if it cut well. A horse was arete if it ran strong and fast. A singer was arete if he or she sang well. Sometimes the word came to mean courage. Sometimes it meant efficient excellence or operative virtue. It never meant cloistered virtue or virtue in a vacuum as if it were an attitude but virtue which is demonstrated in a life.

#2

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- (2) This is what 2 Timothy is saying.
- (3) We cannot assume, we must grasp that we look to God to keep us from stumbling. A humble faith that leans on God.
- (4) He is the one who shall cause us to stand on the day of judgment.
- (5) And therefore we worship him.

3. 2 Peter 1:2-11 (explain)

## IV. Conclusion.

- A. So I remind you of the verses I quoted at the beginning and I tell you that there is nothing you will lose in following Jesus to the end.
- B. Fight the good fight, run the race set before you in endurance for in the end you shall live and reign and delight yourself for all eternity in the one person who truly satisfies.

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## Small Group Questions

- Looking at the various ways one moves toward apostasy, which is the one perhaps you can see would tempt you most? How can others pray and help you battle against it?
- Discuss the nature of biblical fellowship in relation to apostasy. Why is real fellowship necessary? What are some false types of fellowship, perhaps, that we replace true fellowship with?
- How does understand the difference between objective assurance and subjective assurance help you think through the nature of your personal salvation?
- Consider where you are in 2 Peter 1 in the list we went through. Try to identify what you see in your life as a habit and consider what you need to do to continue to grow and flourish in those things.