

Speaker: Stephen Whitmore

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Reading - 2 Timothy Chapter 1 verses 8-12

“I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I committed unto him against that day”.

1 Certainty

“I know” When Paul wrote this he had absolute certainty about the message.

2 Centre

“I know whom” The message is centred around a person who can be trusted implicitly.

3 Consequence

“Against that day” There is a day coming when we will have to stand before God and give an account. We will either stand in Christ or stand in our sin. There is a day of solemn judgment coming.

“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt 25:41)

Paul is not speaking of something theoretical or passed on he is looking back over his Christian life in confidence. In one of His earliest epistles, he wrote: “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth” (Rom 1:16)

Paul’s writings are marked with certainty.

In this verse we have certainty, centre and consequence.

Paul is not speaking of something theoretical or passed on he is looking back over his Christian life in confidence.

In this epistle, he writes of the sad days when his friends turned their back on him (1:15) and later of when he had to stand alone before Nero because no man stood by him but the Lord was with him (4:16, 17).

He could look with confidence saying, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith”

He looked back over the years of service. He proved again and again that no matter what men did to him the Lord would never fail him.

No man is utterly reliable the One who saved Paul on the Damascus road is the One who kept him and never let him down from that day forward

In 2 Corinthians 11, he records something of the circumstances through which he passed and yet his confidence never wavered.

The One who saved and kept him through such circumstances is the One who will keep that against that

day.

God cannot lie

“I know whom”

Who is it that is worthy of such trust? Who would Paul put his trust in?

The answer is Lord Jesus Christ.

Why could he be so certain?

We are told of the Lord, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)

God revealed himself in his Son. He is the One Who created all things, “For he spake, and it was done ; he commanded, and it stood fast” (Psalm 33:9). God created and sustains all things.

Surely the fact that he can put the world in order with a single word is ground enough to have confidence that He can keep us.

Isaiah chapter 6 recounts how Isaiah saw the glory of God. In John 12, we are told that it was the Lord Whom he saw.

In Revelation 20:11-15, we read of the Great white throne when the Lord will sit in judgment. Such is His holiness that the heavens and the earth flee from the sight.

“As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” (Rom. 5:12)

Everything that man needed was given to him by God but man brought sin into Gods perfect creation.

If God intervened in this world creation would vanish from his presence as it is tainted with sin.

The wonder is this - Instead of God intervening in judgment, God came into the world in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Some sent to arrest Him bore witness, “Never man spake like this man” (John 7:46)

Man tried to kill Him but such was His power and authority that he could walk away unharmed until the appointed time when he allowed men to take him

Even then, He met stood between those who came to arrest Him and His disciples and said “I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way” (John 18:8). He was the Lord of every situation.

In John 18, He allowed men to take him and crucify him at Calvary. In Galatians 3:13, we read “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree”

He died a death under the curse of God for our sakes.

The Lord Jesus Christ is interested in every person individually and loves us all so much that he was willing to go to the cross for every single person (Gal. 2:20).

Not only is he great in power and glory but he is great in his love too.

Why did he go to the cross? It was the only way to put away sin. If there had been any other way God would have found it but there was no offering, ritual or religious practice apart from the cross.

Sin could not be permitted in Gods presence (Rev. 21:27). It had to be dealt with and, at the cross, God put upon Him the judgment and sin of us all. How hateful must that time have been for the Lord to have suffered and yet He went willingly. He knew what was laid before Him. That night in Gethsemane showed that He knew the horror that would take place at Calvary. If He was willing to do that we can be certain that He can do anything. The price has been paid that none need perish.

The Lord Jesus Christ has abolished death. He has triumphed over sin and death , there is life and immortality (2 Tim 1:1; 1 Cor 15:57; Col 2:12-15).

This is the assurance for the believer.

There is a choice to be made:

On the one hand, in Christ there is: Life, Immortality, Place in heaven, No condemnation, Day of triumph and Forever with the Lord

On the other hand in our sins, there is a solemn day of judgement for those who don't know the Saviour and Hell and the lake of fire.

He will never fail

“I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I committed unto him against that day”

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).