



As we read through this text we might expect it to read, "If we are faithless, He is faithless toward us." However, the text states just the opposite. "If we are faithless, He remains faithful" (2 Timothy 2:13). Does this teach that God, despite the faithlessness of men, will permit them to experience the glory of heaven? Absolutely not, rather, despite man's ignorant departure from God, He remains faithful. God has made promises to His people, three of which were previously examined: if we died with Christ, we will live with Him; if we endure, we will reign; if we deny Christ,

He will deny us. These are all promises which God has made known to mankind. Because God is faithful in every circumstance, even our own unfaithfulness toward Him cannot deter His justice (Romans 2:5-8). "He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself" (2 Timothy 2:13). It is simply His nature that God is just in His dealings with man. The Scriptures teach that "it is impossible for God to lie" (Hebrews 6:18), thus for God to act contrary to His word would violate who He is.

### CONCLUSION

Whether sung as an early Christian hymn, or original to Paul, the Holy Spirit has revealed to us a statement in which we ought to have complete trust. "For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He will deny us; If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself" (2 Timothy 2:11-13). Regardless of our background we cannot escape the truth of these statements. Will we let these truths guide our every decision, or will we brush them off as if they are the words of man?

Do you desire life? Then die with Christ. Do you desire to reign with Christ? Then you must first endure. Do you want Jesus to deny you? Then do not deny Him by your thoughts and actions. It is Christ's nature to be faithful to His word. Will you be faithful toward Him?



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Faithful Sayings Issue 15.38 September 22, 2013

# Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.  
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ISSUE

15.38

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

September 22,  
2013



## Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:20 AM  
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

### Elders:

Pat Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Kyle Pope

### Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Steve Dixon  
Jack Langley  
Neil Ledbetter  
Brady McAlister  
Walker McAnear  
Lance Purcell  
Rusty Scott

### Evangelists:

Kyle Pope  
Andrew Dow

## A Trustworthy Statement (2Timothy 2:11-13)

By Andrew Dow

It has recently been our aim to examine some simple truths that Paul (as guided by the Holy Spirit) wrote to his true children in the faith (1 Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4). As we have seen, each of these passages are considered by the inspired apostle to be a "trustworthy statement" (1 Timothy 1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2 Timothy 2:11; Titus 3:8). This tells us they are true, accurate, and can be applied to the Christian's life. These five trustworthy statements are undoubtedly worthy of our trust and acceptance today.

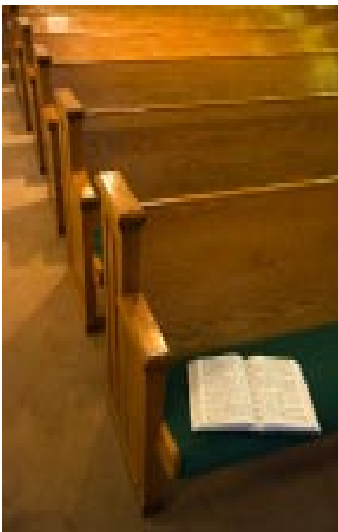
This time we will turn our attention to Paul's trustworthy statement in 2 Timothy 2:11-13. Until this point all of these sayings have been recorded in Paul's first epistle to Timothy. As we turn now to the second epistle, Paul's situation in life changes a great deal. An examination of the life of Paul shows that he is now imprisoned in Rome and facing the death penalty. Thus, second Timothy is the last recorded correspondence between the apostle and his beloved child in the faith. It is in this context that Paul writes, "It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He will deny us; If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself" (2 Timothy 2:11-13 NASU).

Before we begin a discussion of the meaning and application of this text, it might be of some interest to note one question surrounding this text. Scholars differ on their understanding of the origin of this text. Some have suggested that Paul is quoting from an early Christian hymn due to the rhythm of the language and the thought that "for" indicates that something once preceded these words. This is indicated in some translations by the

editors offsetting the text to mimic the style of the Psalms. On the other hand, there are some who argue that this is not a quoted hymn, but it was originally composed by Paul. Regardless of which view is held one thing must be understood: this statement is God-breathed and is given **“so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work”** (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

#### “IF WE DIED WITH HIM...”

This portion of Scripture easily divides itself fourfold with each line beginning with a conditional statement and ending with a result (assuming the condition is met). It is



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interesting to note that the first two conditions are positive in nature, while the last two are negative. Paul begins the trustworthy statement, **“if we died with Him, we will also live with Him”** (2 Timothy 2:11b).

Let’s first look at the result promised when the condition is met. Paul says that it is a trustworthy statement that **“we will also live with Him”** (2 Timothy 2:11). This is a wonderful thought considering the plight of man. One of the results of man’s sin in the garden was death (Genesis 3:2-3, 22-24). What our Bibles record for us in Genesis 3 through Revelation 22 is God’s redemptive plan to give man life again. Here in 2 Timothy 2 Paul shows that God has indeed promised life. However, just as in the garden, Paul speaks of more than mere physical life and death. God is promising everlasting life in His presence (Revelation 22:1-5; cf. 2 Thessalonians 1:9).

This life with Christ is not granted unless we first submit to the condition, **“If we died with Him”** (2 Timothy 2:11). Statements like this are certainly what Paul was referencing when he said, **“the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God”** (1 Corinthians 1:18). The notion that we would have to give up life in order to gain life seems illogical and foolish, but that is the true power of the Gospel! The way in which we die with Christ is clearly stated in Romans 6:1-6. **“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life”** (vs. 4). The promise of life is ours if we are willing to put to death our old self and put on Christ (Colossians 3:1-17).

#### “IF WE ENDURE...”

Paul continues with the next statement, **“if we endure, we will reign with Him”** (2 Timothy 2:12a). There is an idea in the minds of many people today that once an individual has been saved, there is nothing he can do to lose that salvation. Here Paul shows that, in fact, the opposite is true. It must be the Christian’s aim to endure. Endurance is something Christians are frequently encouraged to do. The Bible exhorts us to **“run with endurance the race that is set before us”** (Hebrews 12:1).

Look now to the result of this condition, **“if we endure, we will reign with Him”** (2 Timothy 2:12a). The proposed blessing here is

that, provided we meet the condition of enduring, we will reign with Him. I appreciate the way Albert Barnes stated it, **“the members will be treated as the Head is... if we share His treatment on earth, we shall share His triumphs in heaven”** (*Commentary on Thessalonians, Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*, 224). Paul shows in Romans 8 that we have, through adoption, become children of God. He argues that if we are children we are **“heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him”** (Romans 8:17). Being fellow heirs with Christ we have the opportunity to reign with Him, but we must have the ability to first endure the hardships that will come our way.

#### “IF WE DENY HIM...”

Now the apostle makes two assertions with negative conditions and, by doing so, creates a strong contrast between the first two and the last two statements. Paul writes, **“if we deny Him, He also will deny us”** (2 Timothy 2:12b). What does it mean to deny Christ? Any way in which we act contrary to His will shows our denial of His authority. Near the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that we have a choice. He presents it in three different ways: (1) we can chose the narrow gate or the wide gate (Matthew 7:13-14), (2) we can chose obedience or disobedience (Matthew 7:21-23), and (3) we can chose the rock or the sand (Matthew 7:24-27). Jesus encourages us to enter the narrow gate, practice obedience, and build on the rock. However, if we find ourselves walking through the wide gate, engaging in disobedience, and building on a foundation of sand, we are openly denying Christ.

What are we told is the result of denying Christ? **“If we deny Him, He also will deny us”** (2 Timothy 2:12b). It’s a terrible thought that Christ, the one who conquered death, might oppose us one day. Jesus said, **“whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven”** (Matthew 10:33; cf. Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26). Jesus is described as holding a position of authority (Matthew 28:18) and intercession (Hebrews 7:25; 1 Timothy 2:5). Consider a legal situation in which you have the most powerful attorney

interceding on your behalf. Your attorney has the ability to have the case dismissed or have you found guilty. This is the situation our Lord fills in our spiritual life. If we deny the Lord, He has assured us that He will deny us before His Father. How much more should we strive to walk according to our Master’s will!

#### “IF WE ARE FAITHLESS...”

Paul finally concludes, **“If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself”** (2 Timothy 2:13). Here is provided another negative condition. The author of Hebrews wrote, **“faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”** (Hebrews 11:1). It is this faith (conviction) that motivates us to practice obedience. Faith is an essential aspect of the Christian’s life, **“for by it the men of old gained approval... and without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him”** (Hebrews 11:2, 6). With a proper understanding of the importance of faith, Paul shows Timothy what the result is **“if we are faithless.”**