

THE BOOK OF SECOND TIMOTHY

"If"

2 Timothy 2:11-13

Introduction

1. Paul has just written to Timothy about suffering for the sake of the Gospel and the elect (vv. 9, 10). This, he claims, is part of the calling he has received.
2. Hence, the statement now to be recorded does, in fact, look back to what has just been marked out. But, it also stands alone. The "for" (v. 11) is thought by many to introduce a fragment of an early hymn--in this sense, the section stands on its own. It stands, also as an introduction for what is to come. It will be seen that there are some who do not suffer for the truth (vv. 14-18).
3. These are "faithful sayings" and this means they are entirely reliable (cf. 1 Tim. 1:15; 4:9). There are four first class conditions included. This means that each is assumed to be true. Study them:-

1. AN ACTUAL FACT v. 11.

a. Dead

This is an aorist verb, hence translated "died." Obviously, this is not a reference to some physical matter. The whole concept of Romans 6 is brought to the fore. Romans teaches justification by faith, sanctification by faith, and this is an identification by faith. The reference is back to something which took place on Calvary. There we who truly believe DIED with Christ. Glory to God! This is a fact to be reckoned (Romans 6:11).

b. Live

The death of identification is not the end for the believer. It is the beginning of the resurrection life in Him. The truth taught here is seen in Galatians 2:20. There one finds three "I's" relating to the believer: old I, new I and small I. By this means, it is possible to have Christ live in us and enjoy the abundant life by His grace (John 10:10).

2. AN EXCEPTIONAL FUTURE v. 12.

a. Suffer

Here is a present tense, hence "if we keep on suffering. . . ." Paul and Timothy knew plenty about

this. Paul's life was studded with it (2 Cor. 11:16-32). Millions have suffered and there will be millions more among the saints to suffer (Rom. 8:23). There is the weary bed of pain which must be endured without complaint (Rom. 8:28, 29).

b. Reign

This verb is only found here and 1 Cor. 4:8. We should not call for the good old days because the best is yet to come. The end of suffering is the reigning. Among other things, it includes being with Him (1 Thess. 4:18) and in His throne (Rev. 3:21). Not only will we share in heaven, but here on earth (Rev. 5:10; 20:4). Hallelujah.

3. AN EVENTUAL FAILURE v. 12

a. Deny

The middle voice of the verb points to personal involvement. None is exempt from the possibility of denial. Peter did it! The glorious word of the Book is that we don't need to do it (1 John 2:1). But the problem will persist until He comes (Matt. 26:35). The denial may not be verbal, but subtle.

b. Deny

For many this means a loss of salvation. This could never be (John 10:28, 29). Further, a Judas who denied the Lord did so out of a heart which had not been reborn (John 6:70). Judas sought out his denial (Matt. 26:16). His denial of us relates to rewards and not salvation.

4. AN INTENTIONAL FRIENDSHIP v. 13

a. Believe not

The rendering "believe not" (AV) is better than the RV "faithless." Same word is used and rendered just as here (Luke 24:11; Acts 28:24). Many believe to be saved, but their belief stops there. We need to accept as true all of His promises. Do you believe these: Acts 20:35; John 20:28, 29; Matt. 28:19, 20?!

b. Deny not

This is a glorious fact. Even our unbelief does not change HIM! He is true to His Word (Heb. 10:23) and to Himself (here). Every divine attribute in Him is perfect.. Conclusion If this is an early hymn, it is worth singing. And that is a first class condition! If not, then it is truth worth believing. Blessed be God!