

Sunday, May 18, 2014—The Judgment Seat of Christ—The Faithful Saying of II Timothy 2:11-13: If Statement Number 3

Introduction/Review

- Last Sunday we concluded our study of the first half of II Timothy 2:12 from the point of view of it being a statement of FACT.
- II Timothy 2:12—it is important to note the tense on the verbs in the verse. Since it's true that we suffer NOW, it is equally true that we will reign with him in the FUTURE. Since all believers suffer all believers WILL REIGN with Christ.
 - “If we suffer (**Present Tense**), we shall also reign with (**Future Tense**) *him*.”
- Just as it is a FACT that we suffer now, it is equally a FACT that “we **shall also** reign with *him*.” All members of the body of Christ **will** reign with Christ.
 - GOD’S PURPOSE IN FORMING THE CHURCH THE BODY OF CHRIST WAS TO CREATE AN AGENCY THAT HE WOULD USE TO REPOSSES THE GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURES OF THE HEAVNELY PLACES BACK TO HIMSELF. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST AND NOT REIGN WITH CHRIST.
- The JSC is about determining each believer’s specific capacity for service and their specific role in the heavenly government but all believers will reign with Christ as a matter of FACT.

“If we” Statement—# 3 (II Tim. 2:12b)

- It is inconsistent to read this portion of verse 12 in a manner that is not in-line with how “if” statements one (v. 11) and two (v. 12a) are read in relation to each other; given that they exhibit the exact same punctuation.
- Grammatically this portion of the verse is also a 1st Class Condition (*if and it's true*), i.e., the FACT stating use of the word “if.”
 - “. . . if (*ei*) we deny (**indicative mood**) *him*, he also will deny (**indicative mood**) us:”
- Once again it is important to note the tense on the verbs in the verse. Since it's true that we “deny *him*” NOW, it is equally true that “he also will deny us” in the FUTURE.
 - “. . . if (*ei*) we deny (**Present Tense**) *him*, he also will deny (**Future Tense**) us:”
- When understood as a statement of FACT this portion of the faithful saying means that as believers we WILL “deny *him*.” On the surface we can understand how this might make some

saints uncomfortable. However, to get started with our exposition please honestly consider the following questions.

- Do you ALWAYS in EVERY situation present your body a living sacrifice? (Rom. 12:1-2)
 - Do you ALWAYS in EVERY situation allow yourself to be Christ's workmanship? (Eph. 2:10)
 - Do you ALWAYS in EVERY situation walk in the Spirit and not after the flesh? (Gal. 5:16)
 - Are you ALWAYS in EVERY situation careful to maintain good works? (Titus 3:13)
- In order to understand this statement properly we must gain understanding regarding what it means to "deny *him*" which the verse asserts we **will** do.
 - The Greek word translated "deny" in verse 12 occurs 31 times in the New Testament. Of these 31 occurrences the King James translated rendered the word in English as follows: deny (29x), and refuse (2x).
 - Acts 7:35—"This Moses whom they **refused**, . . ."
 - According to *Webster's 1828 Dictionary* the English words "deny" and "refuse" carry the following meanings:
 - Deny—1) to contradict; to gainsay; to declare a statement or position not to be true. 2) **To refuse** to grant; as, we asked for bread, and the man denied us. 3) Not to afford; to withhold. 4) To disown; **to refuse** or neglect to acknowledge; not to confess.
 - Refuse—1) **to deny** a request, demand, invitation or command; to decline to do or grant what is solicited, claimed or commanded.
 - Matthew 26:34-35—Christ tells Peter that before the "cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice." Peter, along with the other Apostles in verse 35, rejects the notion that he would ever "deny" Christ stating "Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee." What does Jesus mean when he makes this prediction regarding Peter's denial?
 - Matthew 26:69-75—in the process of time, Peter does exactly what the Lord foretold he would do, i.e., Peter denied Christ in disavowing any acquaintance with or knowledge of the Lord. When Jesus predicted that Peter would "deny" him, he meant that Peter would state, "I know not the man" in verse 74. That this is what it means to "deny" Christ in this context is evident from a plain reading of the English text as well as from the definition of the word "deny" presented above. When Peter "denied" that he knew the Lord he was contradicting, gainsaying, and declaring the statements of his inquisitors to be false. In doing so he disowned any relationship with the Lord through his statement "I know not the man" thereby meeting the definition of what it means to "deny."

- So Peter denied the Lord through his CONDUCT not his doctrine. When the time came for Peter to stand up for his faith in Christ he chose the easy way out by denying that he knew the Lord. In short, Peter denied Christ through his works.
- How do members of the body of Christ living during the dispensation of Grace “deny *him*” in II Timothy 2:12?
- Ephesians 2:10--this verse establishes the following realities for believers living in the current dispensation. First, believers are Christ’s workmanship “created in Christ unto good works.” Second, God has ordained for members of the Christ’s body to walk in good works. Ephesians 2:10 makes it clear that believers “should walk” in good works because we are created in Christ Jesus unto them. Furthermore, we are now Christ’s workmanship. Put another way, the life of Christ working in the believer is now capable of producing good works that God will accept and expects.
- We “deny” Christ when we sow to the flesh and thereby prevent the resident life of Christ an opportunity to work in us. In short, we “deny” Christ by failing to walk in the Spirit and manifest the “fruit” of the Spirit in our lives. Christ is denied in the believer’s life by the believer failing to maintain good works.
- Titus 3:8— Consider the words of another “faithful saying” God wants believers to be “careful to maintain good works.” In the same context, Titus 3:14 establishes the reality that good works in a believer’s life are considered fruit. In contrast, believers who fail to “maintain good works” are considered “unfruitful” because they are not behaving in a manner that is “good and profitable unto men,” i.e., they are not allowing the life of Christ to be made manifest in their moral flesh.
- Titus 1:16— Is it not ironic that earlier within the book of Titus that the Apostle Paul clearly defines what it means to “deny” Christ? Paul speaks of those who profess that they know God but **deny** him through their works. Those who are reprobate concerning good works are they fruitful or unfruitful? Clearly within the greater context of the book of Titus one could only view believers who fall into this category as being “unfruitful.” In short, they are denying Christ by refusing to maintain good works. According to the Apostle Paul, believers can and do deny Christ through their works when they sow to flesh refuse to maintain good works.
- I Timothy 5:8— Paul speaks of believers who fail to provide for the needs of their own house as having “denied the faith” and being “worse than an infidel.” How does one deny the faith in I Timothy 5:8? By departing from the doctrine committed to the Apostle Paul? No! One denies the faith in this context through their conduct by refusing to provide for the needs of their family. Consequently, it is possible for a saved member of the body of Christ to be spot on in terms of their doctrine but deny the faith through their works by refusing to support their family. According to Paul, not only has such a believer “denied the faith” but they are worse than and “infidel,” i.e., they are of worse moral character than an unbeliever.

- In other words, concerning good works they are infidels, reprobates, and are denying Christ through their works. In summation, when believers walk according to a reprobate mind, sow to their flesh, and fail to maintain good works they are denying Christ through their works. Believers who function in this fashion are endanger of being castaways at the judgment seat of Christ for failing to keep their bodies under subjection and function properly in accordance with sound doctrine.
- II Timothy 2:12— so in accordance with this definition of what it means to deny Christ, is it a FACT that all believers deny Christ through our works? Yes! All believers have to make a choice in every situation and circumstance whether or not they are going to operate in the flesh or in the Spirit. This is the internal struggle within ever saved member of the body of Christ, according to Galatians 5:17.
- The FACT is that as believers we do DENY Christ in the details of our lives by choosing to sow the flesh instead of walking in the Spirit on the basis of a renewed mind. It is a FACT that believers do to varying degrees at different times DENY Christ through our works. While it is a FACT that we are perfect and sinless positionally in the Lord Jesus Christ it is also a FACT that our current standing does not always line up with our state.
- The third “if statement” of the faithful saying in II Timothy 2:11-13 states as a matter of FACT what all honest believers will readily admit. We cease to be Christ’s workmanship when we chose to follow after our own way in terms of thoughts, attitudes, and actions. Christ is DENIED his rightful place in our lives as believers when we function in a manner that is unbecoming of the doctrine. Yet we all do so from time to time in details of our daily lives. This is the function of the third “if statement” to FACTUALLY state what we all know to be true, all believers DENY Christ from time to time through our works.
- We have already studied that if a believer’s work is of the sort that fails to abide the trial by fire at the JSC that believer will suffer the loss of reward. It follows then that believers who DENY Christ by failing to maintain good works will be denied reward, i.e., suffer loss at the JSC.
- Nothing Paul says here in the faithful saying of II Timothy 2:11-13 is out-of-line with what he states elsewhere in the Pauline Scriptures. The FACT that believers will deny Christ through their works and that Christ will deny them reward that they otherwise could have had is completely in-line with I Corinthians 3:12-15 as well as the other passages we have studied on the JSC elsewhere in Paul’s epistles.