

“A Sure Foundation” 2 Timothy 2:19

INTRO:

Several years ago, we were traveling to Michigan across Canada. Getting into Canada was relatively easy, but getting back into the United States was a different story. The border agent held us and demanded proof we were United States citizens. We had visions of being marooned in a Motel until my married daughter found our birth certificates. It made me very glad that despite the stories, we will not have to prove we are citizens of the celestial city when we get there. The text for our study says, ***“Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.’”*** (2 Timothy 2:19)

I. Why We Need This Foundation

II. What is the Foundation?

I. Why We Need This Foundation

A. **2 Timothy 2** is a chapter full of encouragement and warnings. It opens with Paul’s exhortation to his son in the faith and the one who would carry on the ministry he had to the churches. He encouraged Timothy first about his own spiritual growth and ministry (**vs.1-2**). He then encouraged Timothy to spiritual toughness through three pictures. Timothy needed to endure hardness as a good soldier, be self-disciplined as an athlete for the Lord, and finally, work hard like a good farmer (**vs.3-7**). Paul followed this with a summary of his own ministry experience (**vs.8-10**).

B. **Verses 11-13** are a reminder of the how the Lord Jesus is faithful to His children and to Himself. **Verses 14 and 15** are an exhortation to Timothy to remember these things and to be ready to teach them.

C. The tenor of the chapter changes at **verse 16**.

“But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.” (2 Timothy 2:16–18)

This is a warning about those who tear up the church with popular false truths. It may look at times that Satan will win in God’s own church. To Timothy and to us who worry that this might be true the next verse is precious.

II. What is the Foundation?

A. ***“Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.’”*** (2 Timothy 2:19)

Although those who oppose the truth look so strong and persuasive, God's people stand on a strong and firm foundation. It is an unshakable foundation. It is built on Christ Himself.

B. Paul painted us a picture of foundations that have an inscription carved into it. The inscription has two messages. First ***"The Lord knows those who are His."*** God's true church is made up of His true people.

1. No matter how beguilingly and attractively the false teacher packages his error, he will not be able to infiltrate the company of the redeemed. God does not save and transform because someone writes best sellers or packs out arenas. He saves according to His truth and because of the death of His Son.

2. The point of the Gospel is so we can get to know Him. We tend to define eternal life in terms of a life that lasts forever, which it is, but it is so much more. In His prayer at the end of His earthly ministry the Lord Jesus prayed; **(John 17:2-3)**

"As You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

3. Those who know Him, He knows in a special way. In **John 10**, we heard the Lord Jesus Himself say; **(John 10:14-15)**

"I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep."

Christ knows us individually and perfectly if we have put our trust in Him to save us.

When we get to heaven, we will not require a passport or some other id card. He knows us intimately.

C. The other side of that inscription is for us. **(2 Timothy 2:19)**

"Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.'"

How can we be sure we are one of those who He knows?

1. The importance of this comes to the front of my mind when I read **Matthew 7:21-23**.

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

2. How do we know that He knows us? Here is where the second inscription is the most helpful. We know that we are one that He knows if we work to overcome our sinfulness.

We want to depart from unrighteousness. Do you remember the Apostle Paul in **Romans 7:21-23**?

“I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.”

Paul warred against sin because he knew Christ. If we war against sin, it is strong evidence that we belong to Him and He knows us.

How sure are we that the foundation of God stands sure? Do we LOOK at the ups and downs of this present life, knowing that it will be worth it all when we see Jesus?

Are you struggling against sin in your life? Hold on my child, Joy comes in the morning.

We began this message thinking about the gates of heaven. Let us finish thinking about entering there. Are you sure that He knows you? Are you fighting sin in your life?