

“Known by God”
2 Timothy 2:19
(Preached at Trinity, June 19, 2022)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. In **Verses 14-19** Paul directed Timothy's attention to the great danger of allowing false doctrine to continue in the church.
2. Truth is essential – Paul says, "Remind *them* of these things"
Paul had in mind the “faithful men” Timothy was to entrust with the teaching of God's Word. But it was also essential for Timothy and for all entrusted with the doctrines of the Church. It is essential for every Christian. False doctrine must not be tolerated. In an age of tolerance where every practice and every belief is accepted, Christians must continue to be intolerant of every belief or practice that is unbiblical.
3. In **Verses 14-19** Paul gives six reasons why false doctrine must be avoided in the church.
 - a. It will lead to the ruin of the hearers – it can lead to the damnation of unbelievers and weaken believers.
 - b. It brings shame on the teacher – he will stand before God ashamed of the harm he brought upon the church
 - c. It will lead to further ungodliness – rather than leading unto holiness as with pure doctrine, it corrupts and perverts those who follow the damnable doctrines.
 - d. It will spread like gangrene that eats away at good tissue not satisfied until all is corrupted.
 - e. It presents a false gospel that creates a false faith. It will overthrow the faith of those who do not possess genuine faith.
4. In **Verse 19** Paul gives a final reason why false doctrine must be avoided in the church: false doctrine characterizes those who do not know the Lord. In other words, they have no place in the church.
Paul closed out **Chapter 1** calling attention to two false teachers by name – Hymenaeus and Philetus. They were teaching a perverted doctrine of the resurrection. They obviously did not hold to Biblical Christianity and did not possess saving faith.
 - a. As I've often pointed out in the past, we have to know some things to be saved. There are some basic elements to the Gospel that must be believed.
 - b. Paul tells us that one of these things we must know and believe is the resurrection
This is an acid test of our faith
Romans 10:9 NAU - "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;"
5. Hymenaeus and Philetus were calling into question these cardinal doctrines of the church. Not only were they not true believers, they were exposing others who did not possess genuine faith.
2 Timothy 2:18 NAU - "*men* who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some."

This must have caused many to ask, then how can we know that any will be saved? This was the same response the disciples gave as the rich young ruler was sent away unconverted.

Matthew 19:25-26 NAU - "When the disciples heard *this*, they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁶ And looking at *them* Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

6. Paul, anticipating such a question, makes a wonderful statement in **Verse 19** He begins with the word, "nevertheless" which can also be translated "however"
7. In other words, it is true that false teachers demonstrate by their ignorance of the truth that they do not possess saving faith. This false faith will not endure the test of time. It will be over-thrown (**V. 18**). Or as Paul stated in his first epistle to Timothy **1 Timothy 1:18-19 NAU** - "This command I entrust to you, Timothy, *my* son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, ¹⁹ keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith."
 - a. False faith will crash and break up on the rocks of unbelief.
 - b. In essence Paul is saying, "But listen, just because there are some who possess a false faith and fall away on the slippery slope of false doctrine, don't think for a moment that God will lose a single one of His own beloved people. He knows them as a Father knows His children. They are fixed upon an unshakable foundation."

I. "Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands"

- A. A strong foundation is essential for a strong building
 1. Essential to the stability of the building.
 2. The leaning tower of Pisa is the result of a failing foundation. The collapsed condo in Florida was the result of a failed foundation.
- B. This is a two-fold foundation. Election from eternity and Jesus Christ Himself.
 1. We rest upon the firm foundation of God's electing grace. God knows those who are His. He chose us and loved us from all eternity. He knows us intimately. He won't lose a single one.
 2. In spite of the false doctrine and wickedness in this world God is still saving His own. The foundation is sure. It was laid in eternity and each and every one of God's elect will be redeemed. False teachers will not prevent God from completing His purpose of salvation.
 3. And while many are deluded and led astray by false doctrine, those whom God has chosen will never have their faith overthrown. Those who persist in error reveal their eternal condition. **1 John 2:19 NAU** - "They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us."

- C. Jesus Christ is the solid Rock upon whom our faith rests.
1 Corinthians 10:4 NAU - "and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ."
Psalm 18:2 NAU - "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."
Psalm 62:2 NAU - "He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken."
1. It is foolishness and folly to build upon any other foundation. The false faith of the false teachers were void of Christ
Matthew 7:26-27 NAU - "And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. ²⁷ "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall."
 - a. The sand is the ever-shifting ground of human reason. It is based upon shallowness and superficial understanding.
 - b. This characterizes our generation – there is little theology.
 - For many their religion is a superficial thing
 - Most know very little of their Bibles and are uninterested in knowing more – easy targets for Satan & his false teachers
 - They have no foundation upon which to build
 Their hope is founded upon sand
 2. There is no salvation apart from Christ. For those who rest in Him there is a sure foundation.
1 Peter 2:6 NAU - "Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner *stone*, And he who believes in Him shall not be disappointed."

II. "having this seal"

- A. What did Paul mean by this word "seal." The ancient signet ring gives us a good picture. The king's official image would be pressed into wax. The signet ring of the king had three purposes
1. To authenticate something as genuine – The seal bearing the king's official image validated it as genuine.
 - a. Jezebel used Ahab's seal to authenticate a letter as being from him.
1 Kings 21:8 NAU - "So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and sent letters to the elders and to the nobles who were living with Naboth in his city."
 - b. We can also see this use of the seal in Esther
Esther 8:8 NAU - "Now you write to the Jews as you see fit, in the king's name, and seal *it* with the king's signet ring; for a decree which is written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's signet ring may not be revoked."

2. To render something as secure – the king could seal a message with his signet confirming it would not be opened by anyone who was not authorized.

In Revelation 5 we see an example of the seal rendering secure

Revelation 5:1-2 NAU - "I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. ² And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?"

3. To denote ownership

In a beautiful show of ownership - Song of Solomon 8:6

Song of Solomon 8:6 NAU - "Put me like a seal over your heart, Like a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death, Jealousy is as severe as Sheol; Its flashes are flashes of fire, The very flame of the LORD."

B. We can see elements of all three of these in the believer

1. We are sealed authenticating us as genuine

a. This seal is the mark of holiness – it identifies us God's redeemed. It validates regeneration.

b. False teachers only have a "form of godliness." They lack the power of God's transforming grace. They lack God's indwelling Spirit.

Matthew 7:23 NAU - "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

c. Holiness is our seal of authenticity

1 Peter 2:9 NAU - "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"

Verse 19 – "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."

2. We are sealed rendering us secure

a. This is accomplished by filling us with the Holy Spirit
The HS in a believer is God's seal upon the believer that God has accepted him.

b. The Holy Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 NAU - "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, ²² who also sealed us and gave *us* the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge."

Ephesians 1:13-14 NAU - "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance"

3. We are sealed denoting ownership

"The Lord knows those who are His"

a. This is based upon our election by God which took place before the world began

2 Thessalonians 2:13 NAU - "But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth."

- b. There is a relationship, an intimacy – He knows us
John 10:27-28 NAU - "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."
John 10:14-15 NAU - "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, ¹⁵ even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep."
- c. To know Jesus is to be known by Jesus. And to know Jesus is to obey Jesus. Jesus cannot be separated from His Word – the truth.
Matthew 7:21-23 NAU - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. ²² "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³ "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness."

Conclusion: What are the implications of this passage?

1. Those who belong to God are being protected from damning false doctrine
Psalm 32:8 NAU - "I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you."
John 16:13-14 NAU - "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you."
2. He will secure us in our profession of faith in Jesus Christ.
 Make no mistake - your profession will be tested:
1 Peter 4:12-13 NAU - "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation."
Acts 14:22 NAU - "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."
2 Timothy 3:12 NAU - "Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."
3. God is concerned about truth – we are being built up that we might be God's instrument of truth upon the earth. Paul says, "Remind *them* of these things"