

I Know Whom I Have Believed

Intro: A while back I saw this sign on the counter of a store. "In God we trust"; all others must pay cash.

"In God we trust"—Perhaps that has become now nothing more than a symbol of the past. Today it remains on our money, while often our government officials work to create an environment where people are free to do the opposite of what trust in God would produce. But even so, there are people yet who trust God, just as God has always had those who have trusted Him. It is wonderful to hear those affirmations of faith in the midst of not only prosperity, but also difficulty and death.

Perhaps there is no greater affirmation of faith in the Bible than Paul's statement of 2 Tim. 1:12.

For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. (2 Tim. 1:12)

God has revealed himself to us that we may know him.

"..I know whom I have believed"

God has revealed Himself in the physical world.

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (Rom. 1:20)

God has revealed Himself in the Scriptures (They are the story of God's own self-revelation to people in the past; they teach us about God and His nature)

For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope (Rom. 15:4).

God has revealed Himself in his Son.

No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him* (Jn. 1:18).

When we become intimately familiar with all of these, God is revealing himself to us and we may know him!

To know God is to trust Him.

"I know whom I have believed and I am convinced He is able"

God's revelation is designed to lead us to faith in Him. Rom. 10:17. Not only that he is, but that he is a rewarder of them who diligently seek him (11:6). By it we may live lives of trust and conviction. We come to know

him as the God who "cannot lie" (Tit. 1:2) and the God who is "faithful" (1 Cor. 10:13).

God never makes a promise he doesn't intend to keep nor a promise that He does not have the power to fulfill.

The Christian life is a call to entrust our lives to God.

"He is able to keep what I have entrusted to Him"

What we entrust to God is our very souls or lives. Look at how all of God's blessings are received by faith or trust in Him.

We trust his grace for forgiveness.

Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Rom. 5:1)

We trust his wisdom to guide us.

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. (Jas. 1:5-6)

We trust his providence for our needs.

And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him (1 Jn. 5:14-15).

We trust his justice to deliver us from suffering (1 Pet. 4:19).

Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right. (1 Pet. 4:19).

Our trust in God causes us to never be ashamed of Him or His will even if that means suffering for His sake.

Think of the circumstances under which Paul made this statement.

Ordinarily it would be a shameful thing to be put in jail as a criminal. To commit some wrong against public conscience and go to jail for it is disgraceful for the Christian. But Paul was not in jail for wrong-doing but for serving Christ, faithfully preaching to all who would listen.

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, (2 Tim. 1:8)

God guards what we entrust to Him until that day.

"...he is able to guard what I have entrusted"

Interestingly God commits something to us (1:14).

Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you. (2 Tim. 1:14)

And we commit something to God. We make him the treasurer of our deeds. We put them in his hand to hold for us until the day of judgment. Nothing that we ever commit to God is lost if we continue in faith. What an incentive to remain faithful to the Lord!

At the last day all that we have entrusted to him will be recompensed to us. Paul nor I do not mean to say that we have earned our eternal reward.

By his grace we will be saved, but it is on the condition of continued trust in Him!

Conclusion: Let's make this great affirmation of faith together.