

## 2 Timothy

### I. Introduction

- A. **2 Timothy 1:6-12** . . . For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. [7] For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. [8] **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, [9] who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, [10] but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, [11] for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. [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.
- B. I want to remind you that from **2 Timothy 1:3-2:13**, the primary focus is on urging and encouraging us to remain courageous in standing with and for God – in spite of the cost we may incur for doing so.
1. In **vs 6-7**, we are exhorted to make good use of the gift God has given us for standing with and for God in the home, the church, and the community – which we can do because God has also given us a disposition or mindset of power, love, and disciplined thinking.
  2. In **vs 8**, rather than letting shame silence us, we are encouraged to join with those Christians who have and still are paying a price for serving God and speaking the truth of God to whomever will listen – which we can do because God will empower us to deal with whatever suffering we are forced to endure for His sake.
  3. Then, **vs 9-10** infers we can trust in God’s empowerment because of what He – on His own initiative, by His own power, and according to His own purposes and grace – has done for us through Jesus Christ and made known to us through the gospel.
  4. **Romans 8:32** clearly affirms we can trust God because of what He has already done for us: “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with [Jesus] freely give us all things?”
- C. Prayer

## II. God's salvation, calling, purpose, and grace

- A. [9] [God] has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, [10] but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel . . .
1. To strengthen our faith and bolster our confidence that we can trust God to empower us to withstand being shamed, criticized, verbally abused, rejected, imprisoned, or even put to death for standing with and for God, **vs 9-10** give us a doctrinal statement concerning God's salvation and His methods of revealing this salvation to us.
  2. The essence of this doctrinal statement is: **(1)** It is God who saves us; **(2)** It is God who calls us to live a godly life – a life separated from the ways of the world, the flesh, and the devil; **(3)** Our salvation is the result of God acting on His own initiative. In other words, He was not moved by anything we have done or can do; **(4)** God has a specific purpose for saving and calling us; **(5)** We are able to experience God's salvation as a result of God's grace manifested to us through Jesus Christ; **(6)** From eternity past God worked out His purpose and plan for saving us – though it wasn't revealed until Jesus Christ came to earth; **(7)** Jesus Christ defeated death and its power to separate us from God, and He revealed the way to life and immortality through His teachings, or gospel.
  3. For Timothy and for us today, this is not new information. But it is worth reviewing, for it reminds us of the greatness of God's eternal plan and purpose, along with His unrivaled grace in saving us.
    - a. In addition, this doctrinal statement reminds us that we have no influence or effect on God's decision to save us. His plan and purpose are all His doing. True, we must repent, believe, and live accordingly, but that is merely a reasonable response to what He has – with purpose and grace – done for us.
    - b. Also, this statement reminds us that God not only saves us, He calls us to live a holy life, here and now – and this truth is supported by what Jesus taught and how He lived on the earth.
    - c. Finally, this statement reminds us that the Bible reveals God's eternal plan, His purpose, the defeat of death, the path that we must take to the abundant life in this world, and the promise of immortality for all who believe and live accordingly.
  4. With these things in mind, we will look at the specific parts of **vs 9-10**.

## B. God has saved us

1. What does God save us from? He saves us from the enslaving power of sin, the practice of sin, and the penalty of sin.
  - a. **Romans 6:5-6** affirms we have been freed from sin's enslaving power: "For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, [6] knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin."
  - b. **1 John 3:7-9** affirms we have been freed from the practice of sin: "Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; [8] the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. [9] No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot [practice] sin, because he is born of God."
  - c. **Romans 6:23** affirms we have been freed from the penalty of sin: "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
2. What does God save us to? If we start answering that question from the perspective of what we've been saved from, we can conclude that we are saved to become slaves of God, to practice righteousness as a way of life, and to live forever with God.
  - a. I suspect we all know enough about being saved to eternal life that nothing more needs to be said about it. As for being saved to practice righteousness as a way of life, we will cover that when we look at what it means to be called with a holy calling.
  - b. But what about being saved to become slaves of God? **Romans 6:17-18, 22** affirms this: "But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, [18] and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. [22] But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life."
3. I pointed out earlier that our salvation is the result of God's initiative, not ours. Because you are so familiar with the "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" portion of scripture (**Romans 5:6-10**), we will read **1 John 4:9-10**, "By this the love of God was

manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. [10] In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

### C. God has called us with a holy calling

1. The essential idea expressed in these words is that God has called us to live a holy life, or to live a new way of life as opposed to our old way of life, or to live a life of fellowship with God as opposed to living in rebellion against God or in ignorance of God.
2. **1 Peter 1:14-16** confirms we are called to this new, holy way of life: “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, [15] but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; [16] because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”
3. **1 Thessalonians 4:7** affirms this holy calling: “For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.”
4. **1 Corinthians 1:9** affirms our being called into fellowship with Jesus Christ: “God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”
  - a. It should be obvious that to enter into such fellowship we must acquire a level of holiness that makes such fellowship possible.
  - b. After all, how can we fellowship with someone we are pushing away by being selfish and sinful, and in our sinful selfishness hurting them and the people they love? Would you fellowship with such a person?
  - c. **Psalms 24:3-4a** puts it this way: “Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? [4] He who has clean hands and a pure heart.”

### D. Not according to our works

1. There is nothing we have done or can do to induce or persuade or motivate God to save us and call us to a life of holiness – a life which by its nature is the abundant life.
  - a. According to God’s rules, and in spite of whatever good we have done or will do, what we deserve for the way we have lived and are living is condemnation to eternal death. As the scripture says, the payment for sin, even one, is eternal death.
  - b. This means that God has acted on His own to save us in spite of what we deserve – and that includes what we deserve based on

how we live before He saves us, and how we live after He saves us – in spite of our repentance and faith in Him.

2. Consider, who of us has come into God's salvation and proceeded to live a perfectly holy life? Have we not, even after being saved, failed numerous times to love those around us as we ought to love them? Have we not lied, or at least hid the truth in order to present ourselves or a situation better than it is? Have we not been sinfully angry? And for us men – who of us has lived a sexually pure life since the day we were saved?
3. So once again, our salvation is the result of God acting on His own initiative in spite of what we deserve – even after we have been saved, which is why **Titus 3:5a** says, "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy."

E. Not according to our works **but according to His own purpose and grace**

1. God's plan of salvation has a specific purpose which He is accomplishing (1) by having paid the penalty for sin on our behalf through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and (2) by calling all who repent and come to faith to live a holy life.
2. But what is God's purpose in saving us? I believe God's purpose is to make us new creatures with a new nature who will enter into a reconciled and genuinely loving relationship Him that begins in this life and lasts forever, and who will invite others to do the same.
3. **2 Corinthians 5:17-19** says this well: "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. [18] Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, [19] namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation."
4. However, because His purpose is contrary to what justice demands and therefore we deserve, He is gracious in His dealings with us – not only in saving us, but also in sanctifying us, loving us, caring for us, and entering into fellowship with us.
5. Do you see why humility in how we view ourselves and deal with other is so important? Do you see why holiness is so important to our relationship with God? What has your purpose been in becoming a Christian?

**F. Which was granted (*given to*) us in Christ Jesus from all eternity**

1. This phrase points out three important truths. (1) Jesus Christ is as eternal in both directions as God – even though in the realm of time He had a birth and a death. (2) God’s plan pre-existed His creation of the heavens, the earth, and mankind. (3) Jesus Christ is the means by which God includes us in His purpose and plan for salvation and godly living.

**G. [10] but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.**

1. God’s plan of salvation, His purpose in saving us, the abolition of eternal damnation and separation from God, eternal life with God in the new heavens and new earth, and the way to life and immortality were not clearly known and understood until Jesus came to earth and revealed it through His life, death, and resurrection, **AND** through His teachings, or what the scriptures call the gospel.
2. This is affirmed in **1 Peter 1:10-12**, “As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, [11] seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. [12] It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven – things into which angels long to look.”

**III. Conclusion**

- A. Romans 8:1-6**, “Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. [2] For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. [3] For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, [4] so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. [5] For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. [6] For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.