

2 Timothy 2 verse 19 the Foundation, the Seal, and the Knowledge of God

2Ti 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: Paul tells Timothy in: **2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.** God tells us the same thing. Why does he tell him this? So that he, and we, will be able to recognize what is expressed in: **2Ti 2:16-18; 16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. 17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; 18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.**

Having been born again, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and studying the word of God, we are able to recognize error and false doctrine. This knowledge is that which we use to build upon the sure foundation stone. This knowledge is what we use to sanctify ourselves as seen in: **2Ti 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.**

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure" Paul is telling Timothy, and God is speaking to us, though some men are teaching perverse notions and vain babblings to please itching ears, **the foundation of God standeth sure.** We see a picture of this in: **Eph 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.**

True believers understand that the **foundation of God** is the church of Jesus Christ, on earth in time, and it is founded upon the finished work of Jesus Christ. The Church is comprised of every person who is born again and believes Jesus Christ arose from the grave and ascended back to heaven, was resurrected. Notice what was said in verse 21: "**groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:**" This tells us that this is a continuing work on earth. How? Every time a person is born again the church on earth grows.

Paul is telling Timothy, and God is telling us, the false teachers say the resurrection is already past, but we know that Jesus Christ set the example of the resurrection to come, so do not be led astray by these false teachers. This example is demonstrated for us in: **1Th 4:13-18 13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**

Though some preach that the resurrection is past already and there is to be no more resurrection, we know that is error and untruth. We know that the resurrection is yet to come because Christ has told us; **Joh 14:2-3; 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**

This foundation has a seal. This seal is "**the Lord knoweth them that are his.**" We have knowledge of this from the scripture in: **Joh 10:25-29; 25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. 26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and**

they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

The names of all that he died for are inscribed in Christ. Those names are recorded in the book of life and are in the eternal heaven with Christ. We see this truth in: ***Re 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*** and in: ***Re 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.***

Paul doesn't stop with "the Lord knoweth them that are his." though the sentence ends, because he begins the next sentence with "and" which ties them together. **"And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."** Paul tells Timothy:

- If a person claims to be a child of God, they will not continue in willful sin. If they continue in willful sin, then you have evidence that they are not born again.
- If they teach false doctrine; you have evidence they are not Disciples of Christ, and they are false teachers. Separate and distance yourself from them.

Paul substantiates this by continuing his narrative in ***2Ti 2:20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.***

This tells us that God knows who his people are and that his people will be vessels of honor. Paul tells Timothy, and God says to us; use only "***thus saith the Lord***" to live your life and discard all other vain and ungodly notions from your heart and mind. ***2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.***

Paul is expressing to Timothy the need to be studied and prepared to give answer and to teach others to stand fast upon their profession of faith in Jesus Christ. God is teaching us to not be afraid to stand fast upon the sure foundation. Why? Because those, who would have you believe otherwise, can only hurt us in the flesh. We are secured in Christ and the Word of Truth. Think about the scripture in: ***Mt 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*** Don't worry, about what the false teachers can do, for God will deal with them. Just let the light of Christ shine brightly through yourself. Preach and teach the knowledge of the Word of Truth, because we know where we are going in the resurrection. Praise God for the finished work of Salvation by Grace and the Eternal life we have in Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord! Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

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