

Eternal Rewards

2 Timothy 2:11-13

Our salvation does not depend upon our faithfulness. Rather, it depends upon the faithfulness of God.

2 Timothy 2:11 “Faithful is the Word [a title of the Lord: John 1:1]. If we died with him [identified with Christ’s substitutionary spiritual death on the cross], and we have, we will live with him [in eternity].”

The conditional sentences in verses 2 Timothy 11-13 are all first class. The first class conditional sentence states a fact or what is assumed to be true. Paul is stating that at salvation we were identified with the substitutionary spiritual death of Jesus Christ on the cross (Romans 6). In this first class conditional sentence, the ‘if clause’ (protasis) is true, so the ‘main clause’ (apodosis) must also be true. If ‘A,’ is true and it is then ‘B’ must also be true. It is an irrefutable fact that all believers will live with Jesus Christ forever.

2 Timothy 2:12 “If we endure [keep advancing spiritually through the pressures and tests in life], we will rule with him [in the Millennial Kingdom]. If we deny him [reject the Word, the Lord’s thinking] he will deny us [the greater rewards in the Millennium and for all eternity].

The Greek verb ὑπομενω (*hupomeno*) means to persist though under a burden, to stand firm though under pressure. Whenever Paul uses this word for a function of the spiritual life, it refers to a Christian applying the word of God, namely one of the 10 Problem Solving Devices to his pressures, troubles, problems and tests in life. When the believer accomplishes this, it strengthens him and moves him forward in the spiritual life. Technically speaking, when the believer reaches Spiritual Self-esteem, he must take Providential Preventive Suffering (as did Paul regarding the ‘thorn in the flesh’); when he advances to Spiritual Autonomy he must take Momentum Testing; when he reaches Spiritual Maturity (having achieved Occupation with Christ, the tenth problem solving device), he must take Evidence Testing, as Job did for example (See the book *Christian Suffering* by R. B. Thieme Jr. for a detailed explanation of the different categories of suffering and testing.) Having accomplished all these, he has reached the point of Glorifying God to the Maximum. For this, God will reward him with rulership in the Millennium. The Lord Jesus Christ will rule the world; the greatest believers in the Church Age will have positions of leadership over and within the gentile nations. The greatest believers will be rulers of nations; the next level down will rule provinces, etc. When one calculates the approximate number of nations and provinces that will exist in the Millennium and puts that against all the Christians in the Church Age, he will realize that we are dealing with a very small percent of the Church Age believers. To most believers the Lord could say, “This does not apply to you since your knowledge of the spiritual life could easily be transferred to a mosquito’s brain with much room to spare, and your motivational level is less than that of a koala.”

“Furthermore, the winner even he who keeps my assignments unto the end [of his spiritual life], I [Jesus Christ will evaluate the spiritual status of Christians after the Rapture] will give to him [the 75 to 150 greatest Church Age believers] authority over the nations.” (Rev. 2:26)

2 Timothy 2:13 “If we are unfaithful [fail to advance in the spiritual life], he remains faithful for he cannot deny himself.”

The Greek word ἀρνεομαι (*arneomai*) means to deny, to reject, to refuse etc. Most Christians reject learning Bible doctrine which is the thinking of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). These Christians have therefore rejected Christ (if you reject someone’s thinking, you reject that person.) If the Christian does not reach spiritual maturity, the Lord will deny him the greater rewards both in the Millennium and for all eternity.

Even though a Christian may be totally unfaithful to Jesus Christ in time, he is still forever in union with Jesus Christ. Therefore, for Jesus Christ to reject the believer (in union with Him) is to reject himself. This is why Jesus Christ said to Paul on the road to Damascus, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me (Acts 9:4b)? Since Paul was persecuting Christians who were in union with Christ, he was persecuting Christ.

Furthermore, the Lord Jesus Christ cannot deny his faithfulness:

“Though he falls [believer's failure], he will not be completely cast down [will not lose his salvation], because the Lord [possessing perfect faithfulness] is the one who sustains him with his hands.” (Psalm 37:24)