

SAVING FAITH DEPOSIT

INTRO: Paul wrote 2 Timothy from death row in a Roman prison for preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ –

(2 Tim.1:12a) “For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed.”

While facing the certainty of a martyr’s death for Christ, Paul reflects upon the certainty of life with Lord after death:

(2 Tim.4:6-8) “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord the Righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

It was during this reflection that Paul wrote our lesson text: “**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.”

The words (what I have) and (to Him) are not in the original text. The word entrusted (ten paratheke / paratithemi) is accusative singular feminine noun with definite article. It is a banking term referring to a deposit.

The question is who is depositing what and where? This led English theologians to fill-in what they believe to be appropriate words to answer these questions.

We will study four aspects of every Believer’s Deposit, of Saving Faith to God, in the name of Jesus Christ.

1. Paul began by saying, “I know (oida / perf.a.ind).”

Paul mentions two things that are part of “knowing”:

- **believed** (pisteuo / perf.a.ind)
- **convinced** (peitho / perf.p.ind).

This is The Word of God (CBD) residing and functioning in the soul of a spiritually mature Believer who is facing the certainty of death with confidence in the security of eternal grace salvation.

This verse became the battle cry of the persecuted Christian church throughout the ages (Foxes Book of Martyr). “For this reason I also suffer (pascho / p.a.ind.1ps) these things.” (2 Tim.1:12a; Acts 9:15-16) [Paul]

The persecuted church that came out of the Reformation dedicated a hymn to it – “I know whom I have believed.”

“**All** who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” (2 Tim.3:12). The CAB is living in the “**Last hour of the Last Days.**” (1 John 3:18)

2. The verb for believing is pisteuo (perf.a.ind.1ps). Pisteuo is a transitive verb requiring a subject and an object to complete it – “Whom I believe.” This is how the deposit is made.

Example #1:“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever (subject) believes (transitive verb) in Him (object) should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Example #2 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation (object/ what believes) to everyone who (subject) believes (transitive verb), to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Rom.1:16)

It isn't just believing in the person (Jesus or God), but in the **person and work** of Jesus Christ for salvation (John 1:29; 1 Tim.1:15) -“You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.” (James 2:19)

3. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the working object of saving faith to everyone who believes - “That by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.” (Heb.2:9b)

I am convinced that (declarative of content) - The content one believes gives it validity or merit. The content of grace salvation is the gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15:1-4, 13-19; 2 Tim.1:8-12).

Whom I have believed “On whose trustworthiness I have staked my faith.” (Ryrie's NAS on 2 Tim.1:12)

What I have entrusted “The deposit: Paul's trust is well- founded, for God will preserve this deposit of faith in Christ until the Day of Judgment, when all dangers will be past.” (Ryrie NAS, 2 Tim.1:12)

Saving Faith is the eternal deposit (Eph.2:5-9).

(Phil.4:3) “Indeed, true comrade, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.”

4. Saving faith is accepted by God in the absence of imputed righteousness in the unsaved because of the sacrificial person and work of Jesus Christ upon the cross (Rom.3:10, 22-24).

(2 Cor.5:21) “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (1 John 3:5; John 1:29; Rom.5:8)

(Rom.4:5) “But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness.”

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

(2 Tim.1:12) “**I am convinced** that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”

(Rom.4:21) “And **being fully assured** that what He had promised, He is able also to perform.”

Eternal deposit of saving faith is given to God

(John 10:28-29) “And I give to eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and **no one** is able to snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and **no one** is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.” (John 3:16)

Paul was probably convinced by Ps.23:6

(John 14:1-3) “Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”