

The Safest Place for the Soul.

Our Verse for the day: Galatians 5:16 (KJV) *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

Our devotion today is an outline of the message at Belfield Baptist Church for January 17, 2021.

THE SAFEST PLACE FOR THE SOUL II TIMOTHY. 1:12

We hear a great deal these days about security in our later years. We all know that our own government has set us Social Security to give us something for retirement. This has turned out to be a big joke.

We hear many savings companies and banks telling us that we should save for our old age. This is not a bad concept. We also hear the same thing from the insurance companies, be safe, be sure, and insure with us.

All of these are good for their own purposes, but they do nothing for the soul. Paul speaks about the soul in this passage that we read today.

In this passage, we see that Paul has now come to his last hours. Second Timothy 4:6, contains the last words of the great apostle. He told Timothy that he was: **now ready to be offered, and that the time of his departure was at hand.** At this writing, Paul was in prison, not for some crime, just for serving God.

We also find that the death sentence has already been passed upon him, and he is just waiting for the time when his soul will sail out to be with his Lord.

No doubt as he is setting in this prison, he looks back over his life.

The road to Damascus

The beating and stoning

The prisons

In addition, he could remember the people he had worked with and supported him in many ways.

Even in all of this agony, with a short time to live he could still say: **For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.** (v.12)

Paul had committed his all to Christ and he knew that he was safe in Him forever.

Let us look at verse 12 and see some of the things Paul had to say about his faith.

I. HE HAD THE JOY OF KNOWING Jesus: "I know whom I have believed."

Paul knew Jesus, not as a historical person, but as a personal Savior and beloved friend.

Persecutions of all kinds had come, Paul had suffered the loss of all things, but the one great joy of his life was that he knew Jesus. To Paul living the Christian life was no easy matter.

As far as that goes, living the Christian life is no easy matter for anyone. We only must look at some of the people in the Bible to see this.

- a. John knew Jesus. He followed Him for three years and according to the book of John, Jesus loved him more than the others. John was convicted of his beliefs and sent off to the island of Patmos, here he wrote the last book in the NT and close to the end, he said: EVEN SO, COME, Lord Jesus.
- b. Peter knew Jesus: He did not know Him fully on the night when he denied Him, but he came back to know Him as a man knows his best friend. He went through many trials, he was beaten, and persecuted, and never again denied Jesus. Finally, he was killed for his beliefs.
- c. The early Christians were killed, and the list goes on.

II. WE MAY KNOW HIM ALSO.

1. We may know Him as our Savior by repenting of our sins and putting our faith in Him.
2. We may know Him as our Lord and Master as we obey His Word and seek to do His will.
3. We may know Him as our friend as we walk by his side each day.
4. We may know Him as our comforter in sorrow
5. We may know Him as our guide along the path of life.

6. We may know Him as our hope for time and eternity.
How may we know Him, by giving him our all? That is all He wants,
our all and our best.

III. PAUL KNEW HIM AS THE MIGHTY CHRIST

"I am persuaded that he is able" To Paul and to the Christians, Christ is able to do anything and everything for the glory of God.

1. He is able to Create: **"All things were made by him: and without Him was not anything made what was made:"** John 1:3

Just think of the mountains, the ocean, the rivers, of the people, yes Jesus was able to create, and He was with God in the beginning.

2. He is able to recreate; after the creation the perfect creation, the devil entered in and defiled Adam and Eve, But Jesus made it possible for us to be born again.

3. He is able to comfort in times of need, sickness, death, or whatever.

IV. PAUL KNEW HIM AS THE KEEPING CHRIST: **"He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him."** One word stands out more than anything else in this part of the verse, He keeps. Way too often when we come to Christ, we are like the Rich Young Ruler, we are not willing to give Christ anything. We say that we do, but do we?

What should we give to Christ?

1. Our souls. This is the most important thing that we have. This is the only thing that we have that will live forever.

2. Our deeds here on earth. He keeps a record and Paul was willing for Him to do it. Are we? Can we say without any doubt that we will be happy with our record when it is read or revealed on THAT DAY, as Paul puts it?

What will your record be like, smeared with sin or white as snow? You might say that you have not sinned, but God knows different. Matthew 15:18-20:

¹⁸But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. ¹⁹For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: ²⁰These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man.

Are you safe?

As we continue to deal with Covid-19, we need to put our complete trust in the Lord.

Today, as you pray, pray for the pastors and the churches in the morning that will be preaching and proclaiming the true word of God.

Pastor Larry Vickery
PO Box 133
South Heart, ND 58655
Cell: 701 260 5940
Email: ldvickery@gmail.com