**He Cannot Deny Himself**

*2 Timothy 2:13*

**Introduction**

1. Paul mentioned a number of “faithful sayings” in his letters to Timothy and Titus (5x).
2. One of the faithful sayings – **2 Timothy 2:11-13** – especially focus on verse 13.
	1. **(v. 13)** – NOT saying that the Lord will reward despite our unfaithfulness. (MUCH TO THE CONTRARY)
	2. Context:
		1. **(vv. 1-10)** – Exhortation to be ***“strong in the grace” (v. 1)***.
			1. **1:8-9, 13** – the gospel, pattern of sound words.
			2. **(v. 2)** – strength in numbers – bringing others to the gospel’s defense and efforts.
			3. **(v. 3)** – endurance.
			4. **(v. 4)** – focus.
			5. **(v. 5)** – obedience.
			6. **(v. 6)** – self nourishment – of word. (**cf. 1 Timothy 4:16** – save self, and those who hear you.)
			7. **(v. 7) –** Lord gives the increase – BUT YOU MUST PUT IN THE WORK.
			8. **(vv. 8-10) –** suffer for the sake of the gospel knowing Christ raised from the dead, and salvation is promised to you in the end too.
		2. **(vv. 14-26)** – especially (**vv. 14-16, 19)** – contrary to others (Like Hymenaeus and Philetus) give great effort to be approved of God by handling His word correctly and departing from sin. (**vv. 20-21** – be a vessel for honor.
		3. **(v. 13)** – cannot possibly be saying God will reward those even if they are not faithful. (HIS PROMISES ARE CONDITIONAL.)
	3. Faithless – speaks of infidelity – you made a commitment, but you broke it.
		1. Disobedience, hypocrisy, contradiction, lies, etc.
	4. “He remains faithful” is only understood by “He cannot deny Himself”
		1. He cannot contradict Himself.
		2. He cannot be hypocritical.
		3. He cannot lie.
		4. THIS IN REGARD TO ANYTHING PERTAINING TO CHRIST.
3. We must be careful to remain faithful to the Lord in all things because HE CANNOT DENY HIMSELF 🡪
4. Doctrine
5. Christ cannot establish a doctrine in scripture only to change it or contradict it later.
6. His Doctrine Does Not Change
	1. The word of God is not subject to change or decay – **Isaiah 40:3-8**
		1. **(v. 3)** – John the Baptist **(cf. John 1:22-23)**
		2. **(v. 5)** – glory of the Lord revealed (**cf. John 1:14** – word become flesh) (NOTE: ***“THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HAS SPOKEN”*** – this will indeed happen)
		3. **(vv. 6-8a)** – consideration of the frailty of flesh – including the word of man. (Contrast to what the mouth of the Lord spoke)
		4. **(v. 8b)** – word of God does not, and will not change/wither/fade away, but is true and will come to pass.
		5. God said it, and that settles it.
	2. Jesus does not change – **Hebrews 13:8-9**
		1. **(v. 9)** – Christ does not change in regard to doctrine.
		2. Hebrew audience – Christians who were reverting to Judaism in the face of persecution from their countrymen.
		3. Abstaining from meat – **cf. Acts 10:15; Colossians 2:16; Romans 14:16-17** (established by grace, not by foods)
		4. The doctrines of prohibited meats had never been a part of Christ’s New Covenant, and they should not be swayed to turn back to that.
	3. His word is not “yes and no” – **2 Corinthians 1:15-20**
		1. **(vv. 15-16)** – Context – Corinthians labeling Paul as duplicitous and dishonest for changing his travel plans. (Influence of false teachers)
		2. **(vv. 17-20)** – Uses God as the standard of comparison – HE WAS HONEST AND CONSISTENT WITH HIS WORDS AS GOD IS.
		3. GOD CANNOT SAY “YES” AND THEN SAY “NO” – He cannot contradict Himself.
		4. Why did he not come? – **(vv. 22)** – to spare them.
7. We Cannot Reject or Contradict His Doctrine
	1. To do so is to be accursed – **Galatians 1:6-9**
	2. To do so is to lose fellowship with God – **2 John 9**
8. Judgments Concerning Righteousness and Sin
9. Christ cannot be mistaken in His judgments concerning someone’s righteousness or sin, and the rewards applied in such judgment.
10. His Judgments are True
	1. God is true in His judgement – **Psalm 19:9**
		1. Both in His word, and in His judgments and sentences of the actions of man.
	2. His judgments are impartial – **Romans 2:5-11** – showing the Jew that they are no better than the Gentile and will not escape God’s judgment because they are Jews.
		1. **(v. 6)** – His judgments are always based on the deeds done – no other circumstances are considered.
		2. **cf. Galatians 3:28** – NOT ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, etc.
	3. God’s judgments are never unjust – **Romans 3:1-4**
		1. Speaking of the fact that the Jews are subject to God’s wrath just as the Gentiles.
		2. **(v. 3)** – Does God’s rejection of the unfaithful Jews make Him unfaithful?
			1. They are no longer His people when He said they’d always be His people.
			2. This promise was conditional, and they rejected Him through disobedience.
		3. **(v. 4)** – instead of replying against God’s judgment, acknowledge it as true, confess your sins, and ask for repentance.
			1. **(v. 4)** – quoting Psalm 51
			2. **Psalm 51:3-4** – when God judges you, and convicts you of sin accept the judgment, and repent.
	4. This is true of God’s accounting of righteousness and sin.
11. We Cannot Escape His Judgment
	1. Judgment will come, and it will be applied justly – **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**
	2. His word is the standard – **John 12:48**
	3. We must not fail to acknowledge His word now, and make Him a liar – **1 John 1:10**
		1. If God’s word says it is sin, but we say it isn’t then we make Him a liar.
		2. But such will not exempt us from judgment according to His set standard.
		3. **(v. 9)** – confess that sin instead because you won’t be able to escape the judgment!
12. Promises
13. Christ cannot and will not break a promise He has given, whether good or bad. (UNDERSTANDING THAT PROMISES SOMETIMES HAVE CONDITIONS – NOT BREAKING OF PROMISE IF THE OTHER PARTY TRANSGRESSED THE AGREEMENT/COVENANT)
14. He Cannot Lie
	1. God cannot lie – **Titus 1:2**
	2. He cannot take back His promise of goodness – **Hebrews 6:13-18**
		1. **(v. 17)** – God wanted to show that He could not deny Himself – immutability (unchangeableness) of His counsel (**v. 18** – impossible for Him to lie).
		2. **(vv. 16-18)** – used 2 immutable things – PROMISE (He can’t break that promise) and OATH **(v. 16** – confirmation, end of all dispute).
	3. He will not budge in His promise of punishment – **Jude 4-7**
		1. **(v. 4)** – how were they “long ago marked out for this condemnation?”
			1. Was it specific prophecy? God spoke of these specific people?
			2. Or was it a general matter of disobedience to God being punished? – YES
		2. **(vv. 5-7)** – followed with examples of people being destroyed for disobedience.
		3. **Cf. Hebrews 2:1-3** – how shall we escape? We won’t.
15. We Will Receive the Promise
	1. We will receive the reward like Abraham if we endure – **Hebrews 6:11-15** – show diligence to full assurance of hope.
		1. **James 1:12** – endure, receive crown of life.
		2. **2 Timothy 4:8** – give to all who have loved His appearing.
	2. We will receive the punishment of hell if we aren’t faithful **– Revelation 20:13-15; 21:5-8** – these words are true and faithful.
	3. If we deny Him He will deny us, He can’t deny Himself – **2 Timothy 2:12-13**

**Conclusion**

1. We must be warned that God cannot go back on His word. His doctrine is settled in heaven, His judgments are and will be true, and the reward is certain.
2. We can take comfort knowing that if we abide in His word we will be judged faithful and righteous by His grace, and our reward is certain because ***“He cannot deny Himself.”***