

1. Our LifeLines verse for May 13 will be 1 Peter 3:15!
2. LifeLines will NOT meet Memorial Day. We WILL meet June 3-24.

LifeLines May 13, 2024

Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

2 Timothy 1:12

For this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the One in whom I have put my trust, & I am sure that He is able to guard until that day* what I have entrusted to Him.

* Also called the Day of Christ or Judgment Day when Christians will be called to account for their actions.

WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

CONTEXT

Paul wrote this letter to Timothy from prison in Rome. Timothy had been the pastor to the church at Ephesus for four years. It had been almost that long since he received the first letter Paul sent! Paul told Timothy *not* to be ashamed of him (Paul) or his imprisonment or their testimony about the Lord. In fact, he invited Timothy to join in suffering for the gospel by relying on God's power. He encouraged Timothy by reminding him God saved them both & called them with a holy calling, according to His grace, given to them in Christ Jesus. He encouraged Timothy to hold to the standard of sound teaching he received from Paul. Paul also referenced the faith of Timothy's mother & grandmother & told him to "rekindle the gift of God that is within you" because "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power & of love & of self discipline." (See 2 Timothy 1:6-7 in your Bible.)

Keep in mind, Paul knew he was nearing his own death. In this letter, certain statements make it sound as if he is settling accounts & perhaps, preparing Timothy to carry on after he is gone.

DIFFERENT VERSIONS (Versions not listed are similar to the NRSV or to versions shown below.)

AMP

This is why I suffer as I do. Still, I am not ashamed; for I know Him [& I am personally acquainted with Him] whom I have believed [with absolute trust & confidence in Him & in the truth of His deity], & I am persuaded [beyond any doubt] that He is able to guard that which I have entrusted to Him until that day [when I stand before Him].

CEB

This is also why I'm suffering the way I do, but I'm not ashamed. I know the One in whom I've placed my trust. I'm convinced that God is powerful enough to protect what He has placed in my trust until that day.

ERV

And I suffer now because of that work. But I am not ashamed, because I know the One I have put my trust in. And I am sure that He is able to protect what I have put into His care until that Day.

GNT

And it is for this reason that I suffer these things. But I am still full of confidence, because I know whom I have trusted, & I am sure that He is able to keep safe until that Day what He has entrusted to me.

MSG

It's also the cause of all this trouble I'm in. But I have no regrets. I couldn't be more sure of my ground – the One I've trusted in can take care of what He's trusted me to do right to the end.

NASB

For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed & I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

NCV

I am suffering now because I tell the Good News, but I am not ashamed, because I know Jesus, the One in whom I have believed. And I am sure He is able to protect what He has trusted me with until that day.

NiRV

That's why I'm suffering the way I am. But I'm not ashamed. I know the One I have believed in. I am sure He is able to take care of what I have given Him. I can trust Him with it until the Day He returns as judge.

NLT

That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the one whom I trust, & I am sure that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until the day of His return.

SELAH

BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

For this reason I suffer as I do... Paul said he is suffering because he was appointed a herald & apostle & teacher – and it's worth the suffering. Knowing Jesus' sufferings gave Paul power to endure all things, too. Paul's suffering caused his faith to grow stronger because he set his mind on the sure & blessed hope of Christ & eternity to come.

But I am not ashamed... Even though Paul is suffering, he's not ashamed. The Spirit of God grants us spiritual power to endure. For this reason, we are not to be afraid. Paul trusted Christ to be his strength, not his own efforts.

for I know the One in whom I have put my trust... Christ is the foundation of our faith. It's not *how* we believe! It's knowing *whom* we believe! Christ is the One in whom Paul believed.

Some versions use the word *believed* instead of *have put my trust*. Some commentators feel that *have put my trust* is a more accurate rendering of Paul's intended meaning. We trust in His sovereign power enough to make a *deposit* of our body, soul & spirit into His keeping until the day of our death. The term *parakatatheke* (sounds like – pair a cat ath AY kay) is the Greek term meaning a deposit or trust consigned to one's faithful keeping. The term can refer to the soul which is committed or deposited with God for its safekeeping. This is what Paul means.

A spiritual knowledge of Christ is necessary for faith *in* Him, & believers have no doubt that He can be trusted. He can be trusted with the souls & lives of His followers! It is for us that He came! Christ is trustworthy because He is the fullness of the Godhead, the Creator & upholder of all things. Paul's

confidence & ours stems from Christ's demonstrations of trustworthiness. Throughout His life He was faithful to His Father & to His disciples (John 13:1). Jesus is holy, perfect, sinless & will fulfill all His promises, including His promise to glorify us one day.

Paul fully understood the character of God. He knew God as his Redeemer to whom he had fully committed himself, his needs & his eternal interests. He knew he could trust God with it all! Everyday, Christ meets *our* needs & through the Holy Spirit delivers us *from* difficulties or *leads us through them*. We can entrust ourselves to God's hands.

& I am sure that He is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to Him... (Some theologians think this statement refers to something God has entrusted *to Paul*. Most believe it's what *God* has been trusted to keep. There is certainly evidence that God expects us to keep the faith. See 2 Timothy 4:7. Another way of looking at this is: God deposits the full revelation of His Word in us, & we deposit our faith, as evidenced in our spirit & soul, in Him.) Jesus who came to earth to die in order to save believers from their sins can certainly be entrusted to guard & protect whatever believers entrust *to Him*. What do *we* entrust to the Lord? Paul committed *himself* to God, with all his uncertainties, trials & the unknown!

We must entrust to God the same thing – ourselves, our individual being; *our* soul & the souls of *all* whom we lead to the Lord & accept Him as Savior (See 1 Peter 4:19, KJV). We place in Him our confidence of eternal life. We trust Him to keep & guard *everything* that is committed to Him in our daily lives – our beings, our salvation, our family & friends, our marriage, job, everything. When we commit, dedicate, baptize, christen believers, we are committing them to the care of God for their salvation. We may commit hopes & dreams which are in line with God's will & plans for us as spoken of in Jeremiah 29:11. We trust Him to guard & keep our heart; to guard & keep the lives of those we've led to Him, in the faith; to guard & keep our mind, will & emotions (our soul) clean & pure as we pursue righteous living. We entrust our confidence that He will give us our daily bread & keep us from the evil one.

For Paul, the *Day* may have referred to the moment after his death when he would give Christ an account of his work. Paul had absolute confidence that Christ would preserve him until the day of *his* death as well as each soul Paul had been instrumental in converting & saving until the Day of Judgment & resurrection of believers. Paul believed that Day was when he & *all* of us would stand before the Divine Judge.

SELAH

RELATED VERSES (Verses are NRSV unless otherwise stated. What verses come to *your* mind?)

Psalm 9:10, And those who know Your name put their trust in You, for You, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You.

Psalm 25:2, O my God, in You I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Psalm 56:8, You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your record?

Isaiah 50:7, The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, & I know that I shall not be put to shame.

Lamentations 3:21-23, But this I call to mind & therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

Mark 4:22, "For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light."

Luke 23:46, Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit."

John 6:12, When they were satisfied, He told His disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.”

John 6:39, “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that I should lose nothing of all that He has given Me, but raise it up on the last day.”

John 13:1b, Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

John 18:9, This was to fulfill the word that He had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom You gave Me.”

Acts 7:59, While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

Romans 1:16, For I am not ashamed of the gospel it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first & also to the Greek.

Romans 5:7-8, Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves His love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

1 Corinthians 1:8-9, He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by Him you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 3:13, The work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it...

1 Corinthians 15:58, Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

2 Corinthians 1:20a, For in Him every one of God’s promises is a “Yes.”

2 Corinthians 5:10, For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Philippians 3:8, More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things, & I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.

Philippians 3:20-21, But our citizenship is in heaven, & it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of His glory, by the power that also enables Him to make all things subject to Himself.

Philippians 4:13, I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; & may your spirit & soul & body be kept sound & blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful.

1 Timothy 6:20, Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you. Avoid the profane chatter & contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge;

2 Timothy 1:8, Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God.

2 Timothy 1:14, Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

2 Timothy 4:7, I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:8, From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that Day, & not only to me but also to all who have longed for His appearing.

1 Peter 2:21, For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in His steps.

1 Peter 2:23, When He was abused, He did not return abuse; when He suffered, He did not threaten; but He entrusted Himself to the One who judges justly.

1 Peter 4:19, Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

1 Peter 4:19 **KJV**, Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

SUMMARY

When we know whom we have believed, we have solid ground on which to stand through life's uncertainties. Paul had no uncertainties about whom he believed. Like Paul, even Christians grounded in faith will experience grief, uncertainty, disappointment, & more, but we can rest in the abiding love & Presence of the Almighty God. All of the disciples, except John (& of course, Judas), were martyred. They lived for the purpose of spreading the gospel. Paul & his followers suffered, but all of them persevered. Few of us have had any experience to compare with theirs – suffering for the gospel. *Each* persevered. They weren't super Christians! They *knew whom they believed*, & that made all the difference in the world. They knew their Lord & Savior would keep everything they committed to Him. He wouldn't forget or lose a single thing. He would keep it all, just as He keeps all we commit to Him – our body, soul & spirit, family; those we've led to the Lord; those to whom we've been a role model; & those who've provided us with a cup of water, food & shelter - until the day of our reunion with Him.

In My Utmost for His Highest, 5/8, Chambers said we must persevere in faith. He wrote, "A saint's life is in the hands of God...Faith is not some weak & pitiful emotion, but is a strong & vigorous confidence built on the fact that God is holy love...Faith is the supreme effort of your life – throwing yourself with abandon & total confidence upon God." No matter what comes to us in life, God can be trusted to keep us & all we are from this day until we enter eternity. He is trustworthy & true. Christians *know* whom we believe!

CONCLUSION

Let's commit our entire being to the Lord for safekeeping. Let's give ourselves over to the Lord without reservation, knowing that He is faithful. As believers we are all in God's hands. Christ is our hope, & we can be sure He will preserve our souls & the souls of those we commit to Him. He preserves the commitments our hearts make, our faithfulness to Him, the honor we have given Him, our devotion, love, trust & belief in Him. He holds all these things until the Day we see Him in glory. God keeps the souls of believers safe until the Day when the crown of life will be given to all who love & look forward to His appearing.

On every side there are enemies seeking to rob us of our true treasure – our soul & the essence of who we are in Christ Jesus. Believer's hearts may be committed to the Lord, but our soul is still at risk if we attempt to navigate life on our own by using our own mind, intellect, reasoning, will, desires & emotions. We need a safe place to store this treasure. How? We do it by departing from all self-reliance, submitting to

God, bringing our will into harmony with His & following Paul's example - "*I am sure that He is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to Him.*"

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –

LifeLine!

“I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED”

UMH #714 (2 Timothy 1:12)

Words by Daniel W. Whittle, American evangelist, Bible teacher & hymn writer, 1882

I know not why God's wondrous grace to me He hath made known, nor why, unworthy, Christ in love redeemed me for His own. But I know whom I have believed, & am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day.

I know not how this saving faith to me He did impart, nor how believing in His word wrought peace within my heart. But I know whom I have believed, & am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day.

I know not how the Spirit moves, convincing us of sin, revealing Jesus through his word, creating faith in him. But I know whom I have believed, & am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day.

I know not when my Lord may come, at night or noon day fair, nor if I walk the vale with him, or meet him in the air. But I know whom I have believed, & am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day.

Let this verse be a *LifeLine* for you.

*For this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed,
for I know the One in whom I have put my trust, & I am sure that He is able to guard until
that day what I have entrusted to Him.*

2 Timothy 1:12

Take a few minutes to think about this LifeLine & our discussion.

1. Write something you want to remember about this LifeLine:

2. Write one thing you feel compelled to share with someone? Whom will it be?

3. How & when will you share with that person?

References; biblestudytools.com; biblegateway.com; biblehub.com (Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers, MacLaren's Expositions, Barnes Notes on the Bible, Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary, Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible); christianity.com; bibleref.com; gotquestions.org; dailyverse.knowing-jesus.com; insight.org

CLOSING PRAYER: I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom & revelation as you come to know Him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance among the saints, & what is the immeasurable greatness of His power for us who believe, according to the working of His great power. Amen. (Ephesians 1:17-19)