

## **Tried & True: Be Faithful to Your Faithful God**

2 Timothy 2:14-26

**Service Theme:** God's Peace Reigns in His Children

Hymn of Meditation & Preparation 599 Happiness Is to Know the Savior

Hymn 1: 539 The Solid Rock

Hymn 2: 469 Wonderful Peace

Hymn 3: 468 Sweet Peace, the Gift of the Father's Love

Hymn 4: 470 When Peace Like a River Attendeth (It Is Well)

**Scripture Reading:** 1 Samuel 26:1-25 (David spares Saul. Note David's recognition of Saul's anointing; his forgiving spirit toward one who wrongs him. Verse 23 is key to the chapter).

**Introduction:** In 2024 we have rejoiced in our Redeemer's promise that He will build His church. We have seen our need for salvation and the greatness of God's salvation during our prayer meeting focus on Responding to Romans.

We have journeyed with the Ephesian church, learning about images of the church found in Ephesians, how God gathers, gifts, and grows His church, and seen in 1 Timothy how Paul directed the pastor of Ephesus to organize the church. In 2 Timothy we have seen God calling His church with His pastors and His people to faithfulness. Malachi illustrated how fleshly hearts are prone to question God, take worship for granted, and give tokens rather than ourselves to God. God in Christ has come to provide all we lack in our infirmities and flesh. God in Christ will return.

*Soldiers, athletes, and farmers must be faithful to their duty and discipline to receive their anticipated rewards (2 Timothy 2:3-7). This faithfulness encourages others to follow and be faithful too (2 Timothy 2:8-10). Jesus Christ Himself is our supreme example of faithfulness (2 Timothy 2:11-13).*

**Today, as we examine 2 Timothy 2:14-26, we will see that faithfulness to God is tried by testing, but God remains true. Those who remain true to God by disciplining themselves to holiness will find God is faithful to keep His promises and honor His faithful servants.**

## **Tried & True: Be Faithful to Your Faithful God**

### **2 Timothy 2:14-26**

#### **1. When tried, remain true to God**

1.1 When you are tried by man's divisiveness, remain true and patient (2 Timothy 2:14, 23-24)

1.2 When you are tried by man's useless words, remain true and truthful (2 Timothy 2:16-17a)

1.3 When you are tried by man's unfaithfulness, remain true and trust your God (2 Timothy 2:17b-18)

1.4 When you are tried by man's lies, remain true and correct (2 Timothy 2:25-26)

**All these trials and troubles may leave you wanting to sing "nobody knows the troubles I've seen"; this song, however, continues with a silver lining "nobody knows— but Jesus." Another song asks "does Jesus care?" the refrain answers, "yes, Jesus cares! And I know He cares for me!" In trouble and trial, reflect on the truth that God is watching and will reward His faithful servants— He will reward you when you fight the battle for truth with the weapons He has given you through His Holy Spirit (Ephesians 6).**

#### **2. When tried, find God will be true to you.**

##### **2.1 Flee sin (2:19, 22a).**

Notice the rock God gives you to cling to when the storms rage, the waves overwhelm your boat, and you are swept overboard. God's promise is the unchanging life vest that keeps you afloat amidst the enemies' attacks and the betrayal of your own flesh. **2 Timothy 2:19** gives the clear command in these battles: depart from iniquity. Avoid any sin that will betray you into the hand of the enemy. Flee sin (22a)!

##### **2.2 Flee to God (2:19)**

As you race away from sin, flee to God! Find His promise ever true: The Lord knows His own (19a)! He has not forgotten you! He knows your battles! Your Commander is in charge of the Battle, the Victor who has already crushed Satan's head beneath His feet on the cross. He overcame Satan's temptations for 40 days in the Wilderness (Matthew 4). When His own disciples encouraged Him to stray from His God-ordained journey to Jerusalem and the cross, He rebuked them.

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God knows! He knows the power of temptation. He knows your weaknesses. He knows *you*. Your desires. Your fears. Your hopes. *He knows you*. He knows your love for Him, your desire to please Him despite all that is going on. He knows how tempted you are to fear, to give up, to walk away. Yet. *He loves you. He has compassion on you. He will deliver you!!!* Fear not! Be strong and courageous!

Look to Almighty God— wait and see what great things He will do for you. God will use you in ways that you cannot comprehend. He will glorify Himself through you! God knows you. His grace will be enough; your temptation will not be too great to overcome (1 Corinthians 10:13). Your trial will pass— you will get through this test by God's grace by self-discipline and prayer!

### 2.3 Chase righteousness

As you flee from sin, flee to those virtues the Holy Spirit gives as His fruit (Galatians 5:22-23). As sin chases you, you chase righteousness (**1 Timothy 2:22**). You will do right by unbelievers and fellow believers as you follow God's righteous way according to His Word. Notice the trio that accompanies righteousness:

1. **Faith:** Without faith, it is impossible to please God (**Hebrews 11:6**). Abraham believed God, and God counted it to him for righteousness (**Genesis 15:6**). Faith in God enables us to realize that nothing is impossible with God; we move mountains by faith as we pray to Almighty God as His children. Faith trusts God because it believes God's Word. God's Word is true. God is true.

We can trust Him! He is our God, our Savior, our Father, and our Friend. How foolish it would be to distrust the One who loved us enough to send His only begotten Son to die to secure our salvation! He loves us!!! Don't you think He will take care of you?

2. **Love:** Without love, every other Christian virtue is valueless (**1 Corinthians 13**). We can make a lot of noise, but it is worthless unless our works are motivated by love for God and our neighbor. Jesus assured us that loving God and our neighbor is what the entire law hangs upon; if we can love as we ought, we fulfill God's law (**Galatians 5:14; James 2:8**).

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- 3. Peace:** Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace (**Isaiah 9:6**). Where God and man had become enemies at the Fall because of our sins, we now have peace with God through Christ's work on the cross. In Jesus Christ "righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (**Psalms 85:10**).

We have peace with God, so we seek to have peace with one another as well. We are commanded to live, as far as in us lies, peaceably with all men (**Romans 12:18; Hebrews 12:14**). God is thus able to promote peace within our hearts even in this wicked world in trying circumstances (**2 Thessalonians 3:16**).

### **3. Tried & True: God Honors those Who Honor His Word (2 Timothy 2:20-21)**

God knows you. You are His if you have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior and made Him Lord of your life. As you chase righteousness with faith, love, and peace while fleeing sin, you will discover that God who watches your heart, sees your actions, knows your place.

Your pursuit of righteousness and search for God will be rewarded. Those who seek Christ find Him. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled. God rewards His soldiers who faithfully serve. Athletes who train and discipline themselves finish well. God places faithful servants as trophies on His shelf, to display for His glory! God uses and honors those who purify themselves and faithfully serve! Your tears are seen, valued, and hid in God's bottle. Your faithfulness is recorded in the Lamb's book. Your service is not in vain— God Himself will use you now and reward you with crowns and eternal glory for your service for Him in this life! Brothers and sisters, let us serve God for His glory and our great reward!