

WILL WE DENY HIM?

“It is a faithful saying: For if we are dead with him, we also shall live with him. If we suffer with him we should also reign with him, if we deny him he also will deny us. If we do not believe, he remains faithful. He cannot deny himself.” 2Timothy 2:11-13

Whenever we read this verse, most of us try to imagine some possible scenario in which we could ever possibly deny the Lord Jesus Christ. Maybe if someone put a gun to our head or a loved one; or maybe some kind of horrible torture that could cause us to deny we are Christian or that Jesus is God and our Lord. Is this the kind of denial Paul meant when he wrote this? In order to understand this scripture, we need to examine an incident in the Gospels. Let’s look at Peter. He has a very famous denial of Christ found in Mark 14 verse 68. He denied he was with Jesus. In verse 71, he began to curse to prove he was not a “Christian” so to speak. He also said one more thing that we will focus on. “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” (I don’t know him), harsh, stinging words. Notice to deny someone is to say you do not know them and to act as if you don’t know them.

We find similar terminology in some of the parables in the New Testament. Look over in Matthew 7 verse 20, “therefore by their fruit you shall know them. Not every one that says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in your name and in your name cast out demons and in your name done works of miracles?’ And then I will profess to them, ‘I never knew you, depart from me you workers of iniquity.’”

Do you see that they denied their Lord with their sinful works, the works of the flesh. You can find a list of these in Galatians chapter 5 where Paul also explains that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Remember in 2Timothy, “If we deny Him, He will deny us.” This is what

Peter did. He cursed to show he did not know the Lord. The scriptures are telling us we can deny the Lord not only with our lips but also with our works. You see these people in Mathew 7 had the gifts of the Spirit but did not have the fruit of the Spirit to go along with it, the most important one being love.

The Apostle Paul alludes to this in 1Corinthians 13. “If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.” If we do not do the will of God we will not please him and if we continue in sin even after we have been forgiven of our sin, He will say he does not know us at the judgment seat of Christ.

This is why the scriptures repeatedly exhort us to practice the love God has taught us to do and to repent from our sins and continue to sanctify our selves. We need to treat people how we want to be treated at the minimum. This is what it means to know God and to be known by Him and explains the scripture in John 17:3, “And this is eternal life that they might know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 1John chapter 2 says it like this, “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”

Eye Openers
by C.Strande

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