

# I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED

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2 TIMOTHY 1:12 • TV142B

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By  
**HENRY T. MAHAN**

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## **2 Timothy 1:12**

*“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: 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.”*

Let’s open our Bible today to the book of **2 Timothy**. There’s a passage of Scripture in **chapter 1 of 2 Timothy, verse 12** that I want to share with you.

My message will be one this subject: **“I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED.”**

Now, Paul says in **verse 12** and we will use this as the text. I plan to go up and pick up at **verse 8** in a moment. So, you open your Bible to **2 Timothy Chapter 1**. In **verse 12** Paul said and this is the text:

*“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless, I’m not ashamed: 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.”*

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Now, the apostle Paul was confined to prison. He was awaiting execution; he knew that and he knew that he would be slain. He was already in jail. He was chained with fetters and bonds all for preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In this passage of Scripture he is writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and it's for us today that under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit he is writing to a young preacher called Timothy.

In **verse 8** he says: *“Timothy; do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord.”* This glorious apostle Paul said: *“I have not shunned to declare unto you all (the whole) council of God:*

*“I have kept back nothing profitable unto you. Whatever God's taught me I preach to you because I know woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel.”*

My dear friend; I wish I could tell you the number of times I have heard preachers say this: “well, I know that's in the Bible but I can't preach it; my church would fire me.”

One preacher said one time: “I have a wife and five children to support. I cannot teach all that the Bible teaches. My deacons, Sunday school teachers, ladies in the church, just wouldn't receive that preaching; they wouldn't receive that doctrine, so I just don't preach it.”

My friends; I'm telling you that's a tragic, terrible, situation in which to be, pleasing men instead of pleasing God Almighty. One preacher said this just recently (who is the president of a school and a pastor of a large Baptist Church) “I believe those things, sovereignty, elective grace, particular redemption, the invincible call of the Holy Spirit, the security of the believer, the perseverance of the saints. I believe those truths; that's the truth of God's Word but if I preached it my church would fire me tomorrow.”

Well, the apostle Paul says to young Timothy: “young man; don't you ever be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever it costs you, whatever you have to pay, whatever men do to you: “I'm suffering these things; I'm in prison right now, not for being an unruly person, not for disturbing the peace, not for stealing anything; I am here for preaching the truth of God as it is in God's Word. I am here for telling men the truth about themselves and the truth about God and the truth about salvation: woe is unto me if I do not tell them the truth.”

The apostle said that *“in the last day's men will be lovers of themselves more than lovers of God. They will heap to themselves teachers having itching ears. They will depart from the truth.”*

Paul said, *“Timothy, don't you be ashamed of the testimony of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

He goes on in that verse and says: “don't be ashamed of me; don't be ashamed of me his prisoner; don't be ashamed of those who preach the Gospel of grace. Don't shun these men. Don't separate yourself from their company; stand by them, stand by them, be one with them. Be identified with those who preach the truth of God's grace. Don't be ashamed of them.”

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He goes on and says: “You be ready yourself to suffer affliction and persecution for preaching the Gospel. Don’t be ashamed of it and don’t be ashamed of those who preach it. You be ready yourself because they that would live godly in Christ Jesus, “shall suffer persecution.”

That’s what the Scripture says. Our Lord said: *“In this world you shall have tribulation.”* Our Lord said: *“Marvel not my brethren that the world hates you, they hated me before they hated you. If they love me they will love you. If they hated me they will hate you.”*

They didn’t hate our Lord because He did many wonderful works. They didn’t hate our Lord because He fed the hungry and healed the sick and raised the dead.

They hated Him because of what He preached; His doctrine; there was a division because of what He said. The division will be caused by what we preach, if we preach the truth of the Word of God.

In **verse 9** Paul goes on and says: “God saved us, we didn’t save ourselves. Those people to whom you preached didn’t save you and you didn’t save them and they didn’t save each other; God saved us.”

*“He called us with a holy calling.”* The apostle Paul said: *“God who separated me from my mother’s womb, called me by his grace was pleased to reveal his Son in me.”*

We didn’t save one another; the preacher didn’t save and you can’t save those people. God has to save them and God will only save them through his Word. He will only save them through His Gospel, (the Gospel), not a Gospel, some Gospel, or your Gospel, but the Gospel of His glory, the Gospel of his grace.

*“God saved us, (He called us in an invincible way by his mighty Spirit, through his Word), not according to our works.”* You didn’t earn your position in the kingdom of God. You didn’t earn your son-ship.

You didn’t earn your righteousness, *“not by works of righteousness which we have done but it’s according to his mercy he hath saved us.* It’s a holy calling, *“not according to our works.”* Watch this next line:

*“But according to his purpose and grace which was given to us in Jesus Christ before the world began.”* You see, *“Known unto God are all his works from the beginning.”*

Those whom He purposed to save, God saves. Those whom he purposed to call, He calls. Those whom He purposes to redeem, He redeems. He says: *“I will be merciful to whom I will. I will be gracious to whom I will.”*

God doesn’t owe us anything. Everything we have is by His mercy and that is eternal mercy. Everything we have is by His grace and that’s sovereign grace. Everything we have is according to God’s purpose and that is an eternal purpose.

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Let me read it to you again in case you missed it: the apostle Paul said to young Timothy: “don’t be ashamed of the Gospel, don’t be ashamed of the Gospel and don’t be ashamed of those who preach it, don’t be ashamed of those who preach it.”

“You be ready to suffer affliction and persecution for the sake of the Gospel for God saved us. He called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his purpose; we are the called according to his purpose.”

You know, everybody quotes **Roman 8:28** and not many people quote it right but everybody quotes it: “*and we know that all things work together for good to them who love God.*”

That’s where most people stop but it goes on and says: “*To them who are the called according to his purpose. God worketh all things after the purpose or council of his own will. He called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ, (not separate and apart from Christ).*”

Everything that we have is in Christ. Every good gift and perfect gift is from God, in Christ. He gave it to us in Christ before the world began.

Let me ask you three questions:

First of all: Did you choose God or did he choose you?

Now, be honest; what does the Scripture say? “*We were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world.*” He chose us. Christ said to his disciples: “*You didn’t choose me; I chose you. You will not come to me that you might have life:*

“*Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.*” God chose us, God chose us. It says: “*I thank God for you brethren, beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation.*” God chose us and that’s the truth. That’s what the Bible says.

Secondly: When did God choose you?

Well, every Scripture tells us that “*he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world.*” That’s when God’s purpose was proclaimed. That’s when God’s council was determined. That’s when God’s covenant was formed, “*before the foundation of the world:*” in the mind of God, before the foundation of the world. But also, in the types and pictures through the Old Testament and in time Christ was the Lamb slain at Calvary.

Thirdly: Why did God choose you?

Those are three good questions aren’t they? Did you choose God or did he choose you? You have to say: “he chose me.” I say when? Well, preacher, “*he chose me before the foundation of the world.*”

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Well, why? It was according to the good pleasure of his own will, according to his purpose and grace which was given to me in Christ before the world began.

All that God does in time He purposed to do eternally. That's right; everything that God does in time God has purposed to do in eternity.

Paul says in **verse 10**: this calling, this salvation, is *“now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ.”*

In other words: what God purposed Christ fulfilled in time. What God almighty promised, Christ accomplished. What God almighty decreed, Christ completed.

This is what Paul is saying, “don't be ashamed of this testimony Timothy.”

“Timothy; don't be ashamed of me. You get ready to pay; you get ready to suffer if you preach this message because God saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, not according to our deeds, not according to our good nature.”

*“But according to his own purpose and grace which was given to us in Jesus Christ before the world began but is manifest, (is revealed to us), by the appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Christ abolished death and hath brought life and immortality to light, (to understanding), through the gospel.”*

Everything that God purposed Christ fulfilled. Everything that God promised Christ accomplished in time. God purposed it in eternity. Christ accomplished it in time.

That is what Paul is saying in **Galatians 1:15**: *“God who separated me from my mother's womb was pleased to call me by his grace.”* God's purpose and council took place before the world began.

The Lord said: “Saul of Tarsus belongs to me. I set him apart for a holy purpose. I set him apart to be my son. I set him apart to be a chosen vessel. I set him apart to bear the Gospel of the Gentiles, but in time, the Gospel was manifested to Saul of Tarsus and he came to believe on Christ.”

Listen to this Scripture in **1 John 5:20**: *“and we know that the Son of God hath come and hath given us an understanding that we may know him that is true and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ: this is the true God; this is eternal life.”*

This Gospel, this purpose, this grace, this mercy, which God ordained before the world began to be enjoyed by the sons of men, this Gospel, this purpose, this grace which God purposed from all eternity was accomplished, was fulfilled, was manifested, was made for us by the appearance of our Lord right here on this earth, and was accomplished for us and God hath given that understanding in Him.

Now, **verse 11**; Paul says: *“whereunto, I am appointed a preacher.”* In other words, God ordained Paul to be a preacher of this message. God didn't call me to be a cheerleader to jump up and down

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and walk the pew, and throw song books, climb the walls, and lead people into “whoop-di-doo services.” God didn’t call me to be a cheerleader; he called me to be a preacher.

God didn’t call me to be a promoter, to promote programs, to promote denominations and to promote great, successful moves, and organizations.

God didn’t call me to be a politician to clean up the government, to clean up the world. God didn’t call me to be an executive or a toastmaster or an after dinner speaker.

Paul says: *“I’m appointed a preacher.”* “God ordained me to be a preacher and this is my message: woe unto me if I preach not this message. God deliver me; God have mercy on my soul if I preach not this message: salvation is of the Lord, salvation is in Jesus Christ the Lord.”

This is the message we have of the Lord Jesus Christ and declare we unto you; this is our message. Don’t be ashamed of it. Don’t be ashamed of those who preach it. Be ready yourself to bear the afflictions that come upon you as a result of preaching it.

This is that glorious message that God almighty ordained redemption for some and revealed that redemption in the purpose of His Son. Paul said: *“I’m not ashamed.”*

“I suffer persecution because of this message I am in prison, because of this message, fetters hang on my arms. Because of this message they have already sentenced me to die. Because of this message I will shed my blood, but I am not ashamed. I am not ashamed of the Gospel!

“I am not ashamed to declare his grace. I am not ashamed to be identified with the crucified Lord and I’m not ashamed of the afflictions that come upon me as a result of preaching that message and believing it.”

Then Paul tells us why and this is our text: *“for I know whom I have believed.”* “I know Him; I haven’t just read about Him, I know Him. I haven’t just heard about Him, I know Him.”

He’s not just a fire escape or a doormat named Jesus; I know him. *“I know whom I have believed and I’m persuaded that he is able to keep that which I’ve committed unto him against that day.”* It makes it all worthwhile. It makes it, in fact, pleasing. It makes it very gratifying because I know Him.

Now, this text is taken up with three things, now watch this:

**First of all:** It was a person whom Paul knew!

That’s clear; you say: *“I know whom I have believed. I’m persuaded he is able to keep that which I have committed to him.”* So, this thing of salvation is taken up with a person whom Paul knew.

**Secondly:** It’s taken up with the confidence that Paul had in this person whom he knew!

He had a confidence in Him, total confidence. He was willing to die for his glory.

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**Thirdly:** It's taken up with a committal that Paul had made to this person!

Are you with me? Paul says: "*I know whom* (Paul knew a person). *I'm persuaded*; (I'm confident) *he is able to keep that which I have committed.*" "I have made a committal to this person."

Let's go back and look at a person to whom Paul knew. "*I know whom I have believed.*" Notice that he didn't say: "I know what I believe." A lot of folks like to argue about what they believe, what they believe.

They just believe it for a little while anyway, so there's no use in wasting time arguing with them, they will change their belief in a little while.

Other people will say: "I know when I believed. I can tell you when I was saved or when God did this and when I did that." Paul didn't say "I know what or I know when; he said "*I know whom, I know whom.*"

Everything in Paul's confession centers on a person. Everything in Paul's faith is centered on a person; "*I know whom, I know whom.*"

He didn't say: "I know in whom I have believed." One old man said: "Don't even let a preposition come between you and the Lord; "*I know whom I have believed.*"

Some people know a lot about doctrine. We are in a day when people know a lot about doctrine. They know a lot about what their denomination believes and they know a lot about doctrine.

But, I will tell you this: doctrine is fine if it relates to Christ. The Bible talks about the "*doctrine of Christ.*" Doctrine is fine if it relates to Christ. But, doctrine is a dry, dead, cold and chilling letter of the law if it doesn't relate to Christ.

I may know all the fundamentals of religion and miss Christ; the Pharisees did and the Sadducees did. Saul of Tarsus had missed Christ and yet he knew all the orthodoxy and the fundamental doctrines of the Scriptures. He was a student of the Scriptures. So, a lot of people talk about doctrine who doesn't know Christ.

A lot of people know a lot about experience; they even sneer at doctrine; they make fun of doctrine. Well, I wouldn't discredit a man's experience, but my friend; listen to me, salvation is not an experience, it is a person. You can have an experience without knowing that person, Jesus Christ the Lord. So, don't put your stock and your confidence in an experience, especially an old experience that stays old.

You see, every day with Christ is a new experience. Every day with Christ is a precious experience. A lot of people know a lot about the Bible. I hear them say, "Well, I know my Bible."

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They can name the Books of the Bible and they can name the writers of the Bible and they can name the kingdoms of the Bible and they can name the times and the seasons and they know all of these things.

But, every time I think of that I think of what Christ said to the Pharisees, these Bible scholars, these fellows that knew and memorized Scripture and knew all the dates and times, and kingdoms, and writers, and all of these things.

He said, *“You are busy searching the scriptures for in them you think you have life but they are they which testify of me and you will not come to me that you might have life. I know you; you have not the love of God in you.”* That is what the Lord Jesus Christ said to them.

I wouldn't discredit Bible study and Bible knowledge and the memorization of Scripture. Don't you miss Christ, though; salvation is still a person; it's not a book.

The philosopher says: “Know thyself and to thyself be true.” The Scriptures teach, know Christ and to Christ be true. The theologian says: “Know the truth; preach the truth and study the truth.” The Scripture says: *“Christ is the truth.”*

Doctrine takes us nowhere if it doesn't take us to Christ and I mean to sit at His feet, not as a know-it-all but with Mary as a humble child.

Experience is emotionalism unless we experience Christ; that's so! Knowledge is vain; he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow if we do not know him, *“whom to know is life eternal.”*

The Bible will serve only to condemn us if it does not convert us and bring us to Jesus Christ. Remember, Paul said; *“I know whom I have believed,”* a blessed person, a blessed person.

**Secondly:** A confidence that Paul had in that person; he says; *“I know whom I have believed and I'm persuaded; I'm persuaded”*

I think about Abraham when I see this word persuaded. *“Abraham was persuaded, (confident), that God was able to perform all that he said.”* Paul was confident that Christ could do all that he promised.

Suppose I owe a great debt; I'm talking about a lot of money, and I couldn't pay it, I just had a terrible debt, and I faced bankruptcy and a friend said to me, “I'll take care of that for you; I'll take care of that.” Now, there are two requirements:

First of all: He must be willing to do it!

Secondly: He must be able!

Now, do you see that? He can't do a thing about my debt unless he is willing to do it, unless he is able to do it. This is what Paul is saying about the Master here. He is pointing out His willingness



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and His ability. Christ is willing to save; He delights to show mercy. He said: *“No man takes my life from me; I lay it down. I have the power to lay it down and take it up again: no man takes my life from me.”*

Our Lord is willing to save men: *“he loved them with an everlasting love.”* He loves sinners: *“God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son.”*

Christ didn't come into this world to get God in a good humor toward men; God was already in a good humor or Christ wouldn't have come; He's the Son of God's love. He is the gift of God's love; *“for God so loved that he gave.”*

Christ didn't come down here to get God to love men; He came because Christ did love men; do you see that, He loves sinners? He willingly took our nature. He willingly bore our sins. He willingly went to the cross; He is willing.

But, that's not all; that's just half of it; He is able to save; He is able to save our souls because:

First of all: It's because of who He is!

An angel can't save us; a man can't save us and a church can't save us. The only one who can save sinners is the God-man Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ is the only God-man. Do you see that?

*“There's one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”* There's only one great, high priest, and that is Christ.

He is able to save us because of who He is and because of what He did. He died for our sins. He met the law and obeyed it perfectly, in every jot and tittle, in the flesh as a man. *“He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.”* That's what He did.

Secondly: He is able to save us because of where he is! Where is He? He's not in some holy place down here on the earth and He's not sitting upon some shrine and He's not on the cross and He's not in the tomb. Where is Jesus Christ?

He is *“at the right hand of God.”* That's the hand of power, love, and acceptance, and He is able to save us because of who He is, what He did, and where He is. Listen to the Scriptures; *“He is able to do all that he promised. He is able to save to the uttermost them that come to God by him. He is able to keep us from falling. He is able to present us holy and without blame before him in love. He is able to raise our vile bodies and make them like unto his glorious body.”* He is able!

Paul said: *“I know whom I have believed.”* I am not resting in a doctrine, a denomination, or an experience. I am not resting in a law, in a morality, or merit. I am not resting in works, in an evangelist, or a preacher.

I am not resting in a profession, an experience or a decision: *“I know whom I have believed and I am; I'm persuaded (confident beyond a shadow of a doubt in my soul, heart, and mind), that he is*

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able.” He is able to do what? *“He is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day.”*

Knowledge without faith is vain. Paul didn’t say: *“I know, I know, I know, only; he said: I know and I have committed all things to him.”*

I have not committed these things to the church. I have not committed them to the preacher. I have not committed them to the congregation. I have not committed to religion; I have committed them to Christ, my soul, my heart, my eternal destiny.

I have committed my sins, my past, present, and future. I have committed my home, my family, and I have committed myself; I have committed everything to him. I have casted it on Him; I have put it in His hands; I have trusted it in His care. Here I am Lord, sink or swim; I go to Him.

Now, this is what happened back in the Old Testament. The men of old didn’t only believe God but they committed themselves to God. For example, Abraham; God said, *“Abraham; get out of your father’s house and go into the land I will show you.”* The Scripture says: *“Abraham left not knowing where.”*

He just committed it to God. He committed himself to God, his family, his future, everything. God said: *“Leave;” he left; he believed God.”*

Noah, God said He would destroy the world: *“Noah moved with fear and built an ark.”* He didn’t just sit down in a chair and say: *“well, I believe that there is going to be a judgment; I believe that there is going to be a flood.”* No, he acted on what God said he believed. He believed God and he built an Ark. Do you see what I am saying?

Moses believed that Israel was God’s people. Moses believed that God was God. Moses believed that the Egyptians would be defeated. Moses left Egypt, *“He counted the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt.”* He walked out; he walked out.

Saul of Tarsus had his religion but he didn’t have Christ but he walked out on this religion. *“He turned from his idols to the living God.”* So, this is what he is saying to us: *“I have committed.”*

“Preacher; I don’t worry about my family because I have committed them to Christ. I don’t worry about the church firing me; I’m committed to Christ. It’s His church, His people. I don’t worry about the future; He holds the future; I have committed it to Him.”

*“I know whom I have believed and I’m persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him.”* Sink or swim, I cling to Him!