

NOW THAT YOU KNOW, WHAT DO YOU DO? 2 TIM 3:14-4:5  
23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OCT 23, 2016

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

<sup>4:1</sup> I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup> preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. <sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Your neighbor's yard is getting very unkempt & unsightly  
and you are thinking of calling the city about it  
until another neighbor mentions  
that neighbor just had a major operation.

Now that you know, what do you do?

Your birthday is coming up and you are thinking of  
treating yourself to a day off at spa or to play golf, etc.  
when you happen to overhear two coworkers talking about  
a surprise birthday party for you on that day.

Now that you know, what do you do?

In O.T. reading, Cain is convinced God is being unfair with him  
in favor of his brother, which leads him to kill him.

What does believing we are receiving God's  
undeserved grace lead us to do?

In Gospel, Pharisee is convinced he deserves God's favor  
because of what he does and so he  
treats another worshiper with contempt.

How does believing that we are made righteous  
only by grace through faith cause us to treat others?

What we know as believers makes a difference in what we do.

HAVING LEARNED TRUTH, WE CONTINUE IN IT  
KNOWING CHRIST, WE ARE CONFIDENT OF SALVATION  
HAVING GOD'S WORD EQUIPS US FOR GOOD WORK

## HAVING LEARNED TRUTH, WE CONTINUE IN IT

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When people feel sick, they may try one over the counter remedy after another or even go to one doctor after another in an attempt to find something that helps.

but when a doctor does prescribe a medicine that helps and they begin to feel better, it is important that they keep taking the full prescription and not stop until the cure is complete.

Otherwise it can get worse again & even harder to treat.

Paul says in verse before text there are a lot of spiritual quacks, evil people and imposters, deceiving and being deceived.

It is not too surprising that people who feel fear or guilt go from one to another looking for relief

but he says time will come when even those who heard truth Jesus' salvation will think they don't need it any more or will wander the aisles of religion looking to see if anything seems to taste better or be easier to take.

That day is now. Religious aisles are crammed with messages that claim to be new & improved or exciting or easy.

Many people, even those who grew up in the church end up believing various things about spirits with little or no evidence

or believing that certain sins don't really matter or even mutually contradictory ideas at the same time simply because that is what they would like to believe.

This is because our old sinful self is still part of us and we are not completely cured this side of heaven.

What we need to do is continue to hear truth of God's word day after day and week after week

and continue to receive the medicine of Holy Communion continually being treated by forgiveness from Christ alone.

Only God's word makes us wise for salvation  
through faith in Christ.

No one will find this truth anywhere else  
or figure it out any other way.

It is the power of God's living word itself that  
brings us to faith and keeps us in the faith.

If we stop hearing it we forget it without realizing it  
and even end up not even understanding it any more.

This is why we do what we do in worship and Bible study  
and why we do what we do to help others from childhood on  
to continue to hear God's word as well.

Let's take the Ministry Participation Register (found in bulletin)  
and think about what to do as part of worship & Bible study  
as a way to continue in what we have learned.

There are many things to do for people who know  
the importance of continuing in God's word.

Let's stop to think not just about what we can do  
but about why we do them.

Is it because like Cain or like the Pharisee we think  
that it is our sacrifices or our worship and prayers  
that make us acceptable or favorites of God?

No, it is the other way around, it is because of what  
Jesus has already done for us.

**KNOWING CHRIST, WE ARE CONFIDENT OF SALVATION**

<sup>15...</sup> from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings,  
which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ  
Jesus.

The sacred writings Timothy has known since childhood  
is the Old Testament which, Jesus said, all points to him.  
This includes Abel's better sacrifice of the firstborn of the flock  
which is a picture of the best sacrifice of the lamb of God  
who is the firstborn of all creation.

It includes the temple where the Pharisee prayed  
which was a temporary marker indicating the one place  
where God was present with people on earth,  
which was ultimately the body of Jesus Christ,  
the one place where heaven intersects with earth  
and God meets man and hears our prayers  
the one sign of both God's glory and his mercy  
the one to which sinners can come and be forgiven.

Pointers to Jesus include all the tithes, the portion of God's gifts which symbolized that everything comes from God and were a symbol of Jesus, that one portion of human life which returned to God to sanctify all the rest.

All of the rituals and regulations in the Old Testament as well as the sacraments & practices of the New Testament are just silly wastes of time and energy and resources if they are simply things we do to make God happy with us. But they are truly wise and wonderful and powerful when God's own word promises that through them he himself is at work connecting us to Jesus and his perfect obedience and his innocent sacrifice in our place so that we have salvation.

This salvation includes the forgiveness of all our faults & failures so we are free from guilt and shame and so also free from grip of Satan & his temptations which trick us with false promises & trap us with fear and so also free from death and eternal damnation because our punishment is been taken care of by Jesus and we can live again with him here & in eternal glory.

All of this is clearly told us in the Bible which is not just a collection of human ideas but is words breathed out by God himself as the Holy Spirit used men as his trumpets to produce the exact sounds he wanted to say.

This means when we worship, instead of being doubting or despairing like Cain or just building up our self-confidence like Pharisee we can be both humble & totally confident in Jesus because either Jesus did live and die & rise again for us and he does forgive our sins and bring us to heaven or God himself is a big fat liar.

So, knowing all God has done for us, what do we want to do, when we go out from here, nothing at all?

No, because we know there is nothing we need to do for ourselves, we are free to do things for others.

#### HAVING GOD'S WORD EQUIPS US FOR GOOD WORK

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The main purpose of the Bible is to make us wise for salvation, but because it does that, it is also profitable

for training us to be righteous, to do what is right in life as we now live in his kingdom which has appeared for us.

It trains us to be competent, equipped for every good work.

The love of God for us shows us how to love others.

God's help for all we need teaches us how to help others.

God's gifts to us equip us to give to others.

God's patience with us prepares us to be patient.

God's using all creation and all history as parts of his plan

to bring us today the truth of his Gospel

is the pattern for us using every activity in our lives

as opportunities to show what God does for us

and openings to share his word with others.

There will be difficulties and even suffering and persecution.

We will experience the pull of self-interest

and the pushback of disinterest from others

but the presence of God and of Jesus Christ with us always

gives us comfort and encouragement

and his coming again to judge the living and the dead

gives us hope and a sense of urgency.

So, knowing what God has done, does & will do for us,

what will we do in our relationships with others?

Let's look again at the Ministry Participation Register (in bulletin)

How will we live out our lives in fellowship and service

in view of the unique gifts God has given each of us?

Paul, in text, reminds Timothy what he knows & what we know

and points out that this is to result in what he and we do.

HAVING LEARNED TRUTH, WE CONTINUE IN IT

keep listening to God's inspired word in worship & study

KNOWING CHRIST, WE ARE CONFIDENT OF SALVATION

we trust not in what we do but totally in what Jesus did for us

HAVING GOD'S WORD EQUIPS US FOR GOOD WORK

All that God has done for us prepares us for what we do

with and for others because Jesus is always with us

and is coming again to take us to his heavenly kingdom.