

Sunday, April 27, 2014—The Judgment Seat of Christ—The Faithful Saying of II Timothy 2:11-13: An Overview

Introduction/Review

- Last Sunday we began our study of the two major remaining subject related to the JSC:
 - Reining with Christ
 - Crowns
- II Timothy brings these notions together by discussing crowns in verse 5 and reigning in verse 12. Therefore, in attempt to gain clarity of this issue we began studying the faithful saying of II Timothy 2:11-13.
- I fear that my message last week was overly technical so I would like to restate some things in simpler terms at the outset of this message.

The Use of the Word “If” in the New Testament

- In the New Testament there are various uses/meanings expressed by the English condition “if.”
- In Greek there are 4 conditions, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th class conditions.
- 1st Class—Assumed to be true: *If and it's true* (Logical/Fact Stating)
 - Colossians 3:1
- 2nd Class—Assumed to be false: *If it's true but it's not*
- 3rd Class—Maybe or maybe not: *Maybe it is maybe it isn't* (Conditional)
 - Romans 7:2
- 4th Class—Remotely possible: *Maybe it's true, but it probably isn't*
 - This form rarely occurs in the New Testament
- The mood of the verb following the condition determines which type of condition is in play.
- *Indicative Mood*—the indicative mood is a simple statement of fact. If an action really occurs or has occurred or will occur, it will be rendered in the indicative mood. This is the LOGICAL/FACT stating use of the word if.

- Colossians 3:1—“If (*ei*) ye then be risen (**indicative mood**) = LOGICAL/FACTUAL use of the word “if,” i.e., if and it’s true.
- *Subjunctive Mood*—the subjunctive mood is the mood of possibility and potentiality. The action described may or may not occur, depending upon circumstances. Conditional sentences of the third class (“*ean*” + the subjunctive). This is the **CONDITIONAL** use of the word if.
 - II Timothy 2:5—“And if (*ean*) a man also strive (**subjunctive mood**) for masteries,” = **CONDITIOANL** use of the word “if,” i.e., maybe it is or maybe it isn’t
- For the sake of simplicity, from here on out rather than using the words **INDICATIVE** or **SUBJUNCTIVE**, I will use the words **FACT** when referring to 1st class conditions and **CONDITIONAL** when referring to 3rd class conditions.

The Faithful Saying of II Timothy 2:11-13

- II Timothy 2:11—a faithful saying is a true saying.
 - I Timothy 3:1—“This is a true saying”
- This faithful saying is comprised of 4 “if we” statements in verse 11 through 13.
 - For **if we** be dead with *him*, we shall also live with *him*:
 - **if we** suffer, we shall also reign with *him*:
 - **if we** deny *him*, he also will deny us:
 - **if we** believe not, *yet* he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.
- Historically many fundamental and dispensational Bible teachers have held that the 1st and 4th “if we” statements are statements of **FACT**. Meanwhile, the 2 “if we” statements in verse 12 have been viewed as **CONDITIONAL**. Historically, I have tended to view the passage in this fashion; the statements of **FACT** in verses 11 and 13 were bookends for the statements of **CONDITION** in verse 13.
- As I began to study issues related to the Joint-Heir controversy in Romans 8:17 I came to question whether or not I was understanding II Timothy 2:11-13 properly.

Potential Problems with Traditional View (TV)

- At one point in my studies I noted the following regarding the structure of the “if statements” contained in these three verses. First, grammatically they are all structured exactly the same. In all four “if we” statements found in these verses, the English word “if” is a translation of the Greek word *ei*.
- Second, in all four statements the Greek word *ei* is followed by a verb in the indicative mood.

- A consideration of the grammatical structure of the 4 “if we” statements contained in II Timothy 2:11-13 reveals the exact same structure. This reality means that all four expressions are FACT stating, not CONDITIONAL.
 - *If Statement—Number 1 (II Tim. 2:11b)*—“. . . For if (*ei*) we be dead with (**indicative mood**) *him*, we shall also live with *him*.”
 - *If Statement—Number 2 (II Tim. 2:12a)*—“If (*ei*) we suffer (**indicative mood**), we shall also reign with(**indicative mood**) *him*.”
 - *If Statement—Number 3 (II Tim. 2:12b)*—“. . . if (*ei*) we deny (**indicative mood**) *him*, he also will deny (**indicative mood**) us.”
 - *If Statement—Number 4 (II Tim. 2:13)*—“If (*ei*) we believe not (**indicative mood**), yet he abideth (**indicative mood**) faithful: he cannot deny himself.”
- Since statements 2 and 3 outlined above exhibit the exact same grammatical structure as expressions 1 and 4; based upon what rule of interpretation does one read statements 1 and 4 as statements of FACT and statements 2 and 3 as statements of CONDITION when grammatically they are structured in the exact same manner? It would appear for the sake of consistency that all 4 “if we” statements should be viewed as statements FACT.
- Third, I observed an inconsistency in how the verses are read in English. The first three “if statements” are followed by colons. The fourth obviously is not because the end of verse 13 constitutes the end of the sentence and is therefore concluded by a period.
- According to the TV, the first statement is understood to be a self-contained statement of FACT. In other words, when seeking to understand the second “if we” statement in verse 12 the traditional reading does not look back to the first “if statement” to inform the second. Rather, the first stands alone as a statement of FACT.
- However, the 2nd and 3rd “if we” statements in verse 12 are not read in the same manner, according to the traditional reading of the passage. They are link with each other as statements of CONDITION.
- In short, the traditional reading seems to be inconsistent with how the sentence is punctuated in English.
- I now believe that the all 4 of these “if we” statements in II Timothy 2:11-13 are statements of FACT and none of them are statements of CONDITION. This of course means that I have had to restudy what these verses mean in light of the textual FACTS of the passage.
- I would like to now turn our attention to a consideration of what these verses mean if they understood as statements of FACT.

“If we” Statement—# 1 (II Tim. 2:11b)

- The “if we” statement assumes the truth of Romans 6 as a matter of FACT.
- Romans 6:1-10—in other words, believers have already been baptized into Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection according to Romans 6:1-10. Positionally, in Jesus Christ, we died with Christ upon the cross and rose again with Christ from the dead as possessors of resurrection life. It is upon this basis that Paul instructs the Romans to “walk in newness of life” in Romans 6:4.
- In fact, the second half of II Timothy 2:11 is a clear reference to the truth set forth in Romans 6:8.
- Therefore, this first portion of the faithful saying in II Timothy 2:11-13 is not calling into question whether or not believers died with Christ and will subsequently live with him. Rather this first “if we” statement is stating these truths as a matter of FACT based upon Romans 6.