“If” (Conditions For Eternity)

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday August 12th, 2018

Text: II Tim. 2:11-13

### Intro

1. It has oft been said no other word provokes as much thought as a small 2-letter word: If
2. *II Tim. 2:1-10:* In his last letter to Timothy, Paul urged him to be strong in the faith.
   1. Timothy was going to have to suffer hardship, even imprisonment *(Heb. 13:23).*
   2. Paul told Timothy to remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
   3. Paul used himself as example of one who endured all things.
3. Why the need to be strong? Suffer hardship? Endure difficulties?
   1. II Tim. 2:11-13: Paul tells us why with a “trustworthy (faithful, KJV) saying.”
4. Paul’s “faithful saying” contains four “ifs”:
   1. If we died with Him
   2. If we endure
   3. If we deny Him
   4. If we are faithless
5. “If” sets a condition, or stipulation.
   1. “If”: *ei (G1487):* “a primary particle of conditionality” (Strong’s)
   2. “If”: “a condition, stipulation” (Webster).
6. The Scriptures can be understood *(Eph. 3:4).*
   1. You can understand the Bible if you can understand a little two-letter word.
7. “If” is such a small word yet it sets the conditions for eternity!

#### “If” We Died With Him…

* 1. *Condition:* “Die with Christ” (II Tim. 2:11)
     1. “If we die with Christ” is a condition, a requirement, stipulation!
     2. How can we die with Christ? (Rom. 6:3)
        1. Scriptures tells us of only one way to die with Christ: in baptism.
     3. When we die with Christ, we die to some things:
        1. Gal. 2:20: To self
        2. Gal. 5:24: To lusts
        3. Gal. 6:14: To world
  2. *Then:* “Live with Christ” *(II Tim. 2:11)*
     1. If one does not meet the condition of dying with Christ, they cannot, and will not live with Christ.
     2. Jn. 11:25: Christ made the promise of life.
     3. Rom. 6:4-5: This new life begins at baptism.
     4. What does this new life mean?
        1. II Cor. 5:17: A new conduct – “Newness of life” (Rom. 6:4); to be “in Christ” means through baptism – Gal. 3:27.
        2. Eph. 4:21-24: “If” one has heard Christ and learned of Him, one will put away the old self and put on the new self.
  3. This new life will lead one to Heaven *(Mt. 25:34)!*

#### “If” We Endure…

* 1. *Condition:* “Endure” (II Tim. 2:12)
     1. Once obeyed the gospel, must remain faithful, to endure, to be rewarded.
     2. Mt. 10:22: “It is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.”
     3. We must endure hardship to gain glory *(As Christ did – Heb. 12:1-3):*
        1. II Tim. 2:3: “Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”
        2. II Tim. 4:3: We must endure sound doctrine. Some will not.
        3. II Tim. 4:5: Preaching the gospel would require endurance.
        4. Js. 1:2-4: Test of faith = Endurance (Endurance = Complete)
  2. *Then:* “Reign With Christ” *(II Tim. 2:12)*
     1. If we endure, we will reign with Christ.
     2. Rom. 8:17: “If” we suffer with Him we will be glorified with Him.
        1. *Js. 5:11:* Blessed are those who endure. *(II Thess. 1:10)*
     3. Rev. 2:10: If we are faithful to death, we will receive the Crown of Life.
     4. Rev. 3:21: If we overcome, we will reign with Christ forever *(Rev. 22:3-5).* Christ expects no less from us than what He endured (Heb. 12:1-3).
  3. One must endure the trials of this life to enjoy the glory of the life to come!

#### “If” We Deny Christ…

* 1. *Condition:* “Deny Christ” (II Tim. 2:12)
     1. *Mt. 10:33:* If one denies Christ before men, Christ will deny him to God.
     2. *Lk. 9:23-26: “If” one wishes to follow Christ, one must deny self.*
     3. Jn. 3:18; 12:48: You do not have to say, “I deny Christ.” You deny Him if you do not accept Him and obey His word, which will judge mankind.
  2. *Then:* Christ will “deny us” *(II Tim. 2:12)*
     1. Mt. 25:41: “Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.”
     2. The saddest words ever to be heard!
     3. *II Thess. 1:7-9:* The punishment of eternal separation from God falls upon those who do not know God and those who have not obeyed the gospel.
  3. Those who are denied by Christ to the Father will be eternally separated from God!

#### “If” We Are Faithless…

* 1. *Condition:* Faithlessness (II Tim. 2:13)
     1. Some have the idea that if they don’t believe in God, somehow He will cease to exist or maybe He will overlook or excuse their unbelief.
        1. *Acts 17:30:* God no longer overlooks ignorance.
     2. Creation alone gives man no excuse for faithlessness – Rom. 1:20
     3. Mk. 16:16: The one who does not believe is condemned.
  2. *Yet:* God “remains Faithful” *(II Tim. 2:13)*
     1. It does not matter whether or not men are faithless. God will be faithful. God will do just exactly as He has promised in His word.
        1. *Acts 17:31:* God will judge the ignorant and the faithless.
     2. Rom. 3:3-4: It would not matter whether every man upon the face of the earth rejected God. God would still keep His word. *(Gen. 6-9: The flood)*
     3. Heb. 10:23: “He who promised is faithful.” We can hold fast without wavering BECAUSE He is faithful! *(II Pet. 3:3-7, 10-12: He destroyed world once in flood and will again one day in fire!)*
     4. Mt. 25:41, 46: He will condemn some to Hell, an eternal punishment!
  3. Condemnation falls upon those who do not know God & who do not obey the gospel!

## Conclusion

1. Have you met the “if” of life and glory?
   1. Die with Christ in baptism!
   2. Endure with Christ through the trials of life till the end!
2. Or have you met the “if” of denial and condemnation?
   1. Deny Christ and do not obey the gospel?
   2. Be faithless, and hide your eyes against the truth?
3. If you meet the conditions for life with Christ then you will live and reign with Christ forever!
4. If you meet the conditions for Christ’s denial then you will live forever in eternal punishment!
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Remember the punishment for being faithless! Repent and be baptized!
6. If a Christian in error, remember the rewards for being faithful! Repent & be renewed.
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!