

Trustworthy Sayings

2 Timothy 2:11-13

Small Group Study, week commencing 17th November 2021.

For Starters

How important is 'sung worship' to your walk with Christ?

Introduction

In this, our third study of the *Trustworthy Sayings*, we consider what is likely to have been a series of verses that formed part of an early Christian hymn, encapsulating important Christian truth in some simple, memorable phrases.

Read

2 Timothy 2:11-13.

Study

1. *Verse 11.* "If we died with him, we will also live with him" appears to be a compact summary of Paul's statement to the effect that, if we have died with Christ in the past in a spiritual sense, we will live with him in the future in a physical sense (compare Romans 6:1-14). The prospect of a future with Christ was a great help to believers in the past – does it seem less important to us now? Why? Why not?
2. Read Romans 6:11-14. What, according to Paul, were the practical implications of having died with Christ? What does this look like in your day-to-day experience?
3. *Verse 12.* Compare Matthew 10:32-33. In what sense are these verses both a comfort and a challenge?
4. Read Matthew 24:9-13 and Ephesians 6:10-18. Why do we need to "stand firm" and how do we do it?
5. *Verse 13.* The final statement of the trustworthy saying focuses on the nature of God. It appears there are some things God cannot do! What example is given in this verse?

Some people object to the claim that God is all powerful. They may ask daft questions like, "Can God make something heavier than he can move?!" But when we say God can do anything, we are actually using a shorthand for "God can do anything consistent with his nature". God cannot contradict himself.

6. God's faithfulness is presented as something to believe in and depend on. How does it shape your own thoughts and feelings?

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7. Early Christian hymns embodied important Christian truths. They were “theology in poetry”. What hymns or songs do we sing in church, or do you sing privately, that particularly help you to express truth to live by?

A challenge!

One way of training ourselves for godliness is to get God’s Word rooted in our minds and hearts. Why not commit to learning the trustworthy sayings over the next few weeks?

Prayer

Reflect on the words of the well-known hymn below, or a hymn/song of your own choice. Turn the “theology in poetry” into your own prayers of worship.

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine,
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine.
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His spirit, washed in His blood.*

Resources

All small group studies can be located in chichesterbaptist.org/smallgroupresources.