

A DOOMED NATION

AND THE LORD GOD OF THEIR FATHERS
SENT WARNINGS TO THEM BY HIS MESSENGERS,
RISING UP EARLY AND SENDING THEM,
BECAUSE HE HAD COMPASSION
ON HIS PEOPLE AND ON HIS DWELLING PLACE.
BUT THEY MOCKED THE MESSENGERS OF GOD,
DESPISED HIS WORDS,
AND SCOFFED AT HIS PROPHETS,
UNTIL THE WRATH OF THE LORD
AROSE AGAINST HIS PEOPLE,
TILL THERE WAS NO REMEDY.

- 2 CHRONICLES 36:15, 16



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Your Deposit

Paul said, “For this reason 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 what I have committed to Him until that Day” (2 Tim. 1:12).

In the context Paul is urging Timothy not to be ashamed of the word of God nor its faithful defenders (2 Tim. 1:8-11). Paul’s lack of shame with regard to these things brought him a great deal of suffering and was leading to his death (2 Tim. 4:6-8). Still, he had confidence in God. It was He that Paul believed in and knew to be faithful.

Paul made a commitment. The original Greek word here is *parathēkē* and means “a deposit, a trust or thing consigned to one’s faithful keeping” (Thayer). Paul had committed his soul to God. In a sense he had deposited his soul with the Lord for safe keeping.

It used to be many people had “safe deposit boxes” at the bank (some still use them). Valuable papers, jewelry, and cash were often stored in them. The idea was that the bank is a secure location and the safe deposit box room was fortified against fire and other potential disasters. So it is with the soul’s safe keeping with God.

There is nothing more valuable than the soul. In fact, Jesus said that it would be a losing deal to trade your soul for the whole world (Mark 8:36). With such a

***“I will never leave you
nor forsake you.”***

**So we may boldly say:
“The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear.**

What can man do to me?”

- Hebrews 13:5, 6

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high worth, what better place to “deposit” your soul for safe keeping than with the Almighty God? Paul was confident God could preserve it until the Judgment. We need that confidence too.

Jesus made a similar argument in John 10:27-29. When a man or woman places their soul into the keeping of the Lord, no one is able to steal them away. Can a person leave the Lord’s safe keeping? Yes. However, as long as a man stays committed to God, as Paul did, his soul is secure.

Insecurity of the soul comes when we do not have it safely deposited with the Lord. Many are not truly committed to Him. It is like the man who believes his money is secure on the blackjack table. He is convinced his money will return to him...usually in abundance. He does not see the inherent risk and ultimate loss. Still, he confidently places his bet.

Many gamble with their soul. Some deposit it with themselves by following their own dictates, which only leads to destruction (Prov. 14:12). Others put their treasure into the safe keeping of the doctrines and traditions of man, which will be uprooted in the last great day (Matt. 15:7-14). The security they suppose they have is just an illusion—just like the chips on the blackjack table.

When your soul is on deposit with God, you will be able to endure tremendous trials and suffering. Paul was able “to suffer these things” because he entrusted his soul to the Lord. A committed Christian can be ridiculed, mocked, scorned, cursed, beaten, threatened with death, and even endure it, without reservation (cf. 2 Cor. 4:7-18; 11:23-33). There is nothing to intimidate a child of God because he knows Who is on his side. “Do what you will, I know the Lord will be with me,” is his declaration.

Where is your soul deposited? Have you entrusted it to the fleeting things of this world? Have you in your finite wisdom decided to guard it yourself? Or, is it in the protection of the Creator? One is secure, the other inherently insecure.

- Steven F. Deaton

Explaining Away Baptism

I heard a preacher on the radio the other day talking about baptism. Naturally, it grabbed my attention. He quoted verse after verse referencing baptism; Acts 22:16, 1 Peter 3:21, and the like. Amazingly, after each verse he labored to explain why baptism was important, but unnecessary.

How anyone can read Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, 1 Peter 3:21, Colossians 2:11, 12, Romans 6:3, 4, Acts 22:16 and then deny the necessity of baptism is beyond me. The only conclusion I can reach is that they are willfully ignorant. Many have wanted to believe the lie and God has permitted it (2 Thes. 2:9-12). He does not accept or even want those who have “pleasure in unrighteousness.” Can they give up the pleasure and come to the Lord? Yes. Yet, they will not.

While it is astonishing to see people in the denominations explain away plain passages, it is even more remarkable that Christians do the same thing.

Ever hear a Christian explain why they can fellowship/support a false teacher? The Scripture is clear that those who teach error are to be marked, exposed, and rejected (Rom. 16:17, 18; Eph. 5:11; 2 Jn. 9-11). Still, some want to continue a relationship with the false teacher for whatever reason. The reason is irrelevant; the fact is they are violating Scripture.

Some Christians will state it is important to discipline the wayward, but then deny its necessity. Often this happens when it is a family member that has fallen away. However, the Bible has not changed and continues to plainly teach that all members of the Lord’s body who are walking disorderly are to be disfellowshipped (2 Thes. 3:6-14).

**...having a form of godliness
but denying its power.
And from such people
turn away.**

- 2 Timothy 3:5

Let us not be guilty of the same sin as denominationalists. Let us not explain away plain Bible teaching to suit our own desires and ideas. Rather, may we ever heed the word of God in all humility.

- Steven F. Deaton