

## II Timothy, Sermon #10

II Timothy 2

Many of those who followed Jesus – followed Him for the wrong reasons

- For what they could gain
- For what they would see

And as time went on, only a handful remained

Separating the wheat from the tares—tares look like wheat.

Look religious but they are lost.

Many people go to church:

- I can go to Heaven – They don't want Jesus; they want the benefits of Christianity
- Make business connections
- Find a mate
- Tradition

We ought to come to church to exalt Jesus Christ. Sing about Him, preach about Him, give to Jesus. Jesus is the key figure. He is the Lord of the Church.

I've entitled today's message "Jesus Is True, What About You? Part 2"

II Timothy 2:11

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

II Timothy 2:11-13

Let us pray

You may be seated

## Jesus Is True, What About You?

### Vs. 13

Yet, He abideth faithful – Jesus abideth true

- He is trustworthy
- He is faithful as the day is long

Jesus Christ – the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:7)

Irregardless to man, Jesus remains faithful.

Just as Christ will never go back on His promise to save those who trust in Him, He also will never go back on His promise to condemn those who don't.

John 3:16, *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

John 3:18, *“He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*

What Jesus has said – that is what He means.

To do otherwise would be to **deny Himself**, which His righteous nature **cannot** allow Him to do.

Jesus is bound by who He is – He is true.

I Thessalonians 5:24 – “Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it.”

James 1:17, *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is **no variableness** [no varying/variation], neither shadow of turning.”*

He is true to His character

Every word out of mouth of God is true—He will keep every promise He has made.

Matthew 4:4, “. . . *‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.’*”

- God is precise; He is perfect. The Bible is inerrant.

He will fulfill all His promises to believers.

To do otherwise would be to deny His nature.

Of course, He will not be unrighteous in His faithfulness.

- In all of His words and actions, we have the confidence that He is perfectly consistent.
- What He has spoken He will do.

The focus, however, is not really on Christ – it is upon us

Jesus is true, but what about us? Are we real, genuine?

Those who remain faithful to the truth give evidence of belonging to God.

Vs. 13 – If we believe not . . . This means a lack of saving faith.

The unsaved ultimately deny Christ because they never had faith in Him for salvation to begin with.

Hebrews 10:23, “*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*”

“faithless” – people are often faithless.

Vs. 13, “He is not able to deny himself” is a stern warning that He is unchanging, and if we are faithless, we must expect Him to remain just and holy.

He will not accept as faithful that which is unfaithful.

- Vs. 11 – identify with Him
- Vs. 12 – endure with Him
- Vs. 13 – We won't deny Him

Jesus cannot accept as true one who is false.

- That's the reason He gave such a whipping to the religious rulers of His day.
- He called them *hypocrites* because they were pretending to be something they were not.

If Christ accepted someone who was not genuine, He actually would be denying Himself because He is true.

What about people who go with Jesus for awhile and then we don't see them any longer?

- I John 2:19, *"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."*
- II John 9, *"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."*

Turn over to Matthew 13 and we will see a visual demonstration of the true and false

Matthew 13:1-9

Vs. 3 – Jesus tells the story of a sower

- The scene was very familiar
- A man with his seed bag slung over his shoulder, went out to sow.
- He sowed as he walked – reaching into the bag and broadcasting the seed by hand – it was impossible to control accurately where all the seed fell.

Vs. 4

- Wayside meant pathway – those are narrow paths that crisscross the fields
- Farmers walked on them and so did travelers

The pathway soil is packed down hard – remember back to the old days – “outdoor Johnny house” – the pathway

Look out in the fields even today – the cattle have those pathways

Hard ground – any seeds that happen to fall on the pathway were prevented from any growth. The seeds lay there exposed and are easily found and eaten by birds.

Vs. 5 – some of the seeds fell on rocky places / stony places / where they did not have much soil.

- Not talking about loose rocks – bedrock, solid rock – with a little bit of dirt on top of the rock.
- Seeds sprang up – grow faster
- For a brief time these plants looked the healthiest

Vs. 6

Vs. 7

Some seeds fell on ground that was infested with thistles.

- These tough weeds choked out the good plants
- The thistle weed took most of the space, moisture, food and sunlight.

Vs. 8

The fourth type of ground was good soil.

- It was away from the path, rock-bed and the thistle patch
- The dirt was loose and soft
- Sufficient depth and free of weeds

Therefore it yielded a crop – Some 100 fold, some 60, some 30.

Vs. 9 – If you can understand it – then understand it.

Jesus is going to give the interpretation

**Vs. 18** – This is a private meeting with the disciples and Jesus; Jesus began to explain the meaning of the parable.

Vs. 18

Notice that Jesus does not identify the sower nor the seed.

Jesus takes for granted that we know that He is the Sower, and the Seed is the Word of God – the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Any believer who preaches, witnesses, testifies, shares the Gospel is a sower.

- Every believer is a sower of the Gospel

So every person who is in this room – as a believer – is a sower

What are we to sow? The Word of God and we do that on the Lord's behalf

- As an ambassador – representing Jesus
- That is why we are called Christians
- We are to sow the seed

The seed is the same that was thrown from the bag

- The seed does not change
- We are to sow it – just like Paul, Peter, & John

Spiritual life is in the seed – that is what people need

- It is the Word of God that brings life to the unbeliever
- It is the Word of God that quickens – Hebrews 4:12

The Word of God – is the Truth that effectually worketh in you that believe –  
I Thessalonians 2:13

I Peter 1:23 – being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible – by the Word of God – which liveth and abideth forever

Romans 10:17 – faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God

There is life in the seed.

- The Bible is the written Word of God. Sow it! It is life.
- Now the seeds are the same, sown from the same bag, by the same sower.
- The only variable in our parable is the different condition of the soil.

The main focus of this parable is the ground that the seed falls on

Jesus mentions 4 different conditions of soil onto which the seed fell.

They represent 4 kinds of hearts that hear the Word—receive the seed

The soil is the same, the soil just happens to be in 4 different places

- Every human being has a sinful heart. We are all the same – born sinners
- It is where the heart is that makes all the difference in the reception of the seed. ★

**Vs. 19**

**Vs. 20** – the second patch of soil has no depth

This person has a quick response to the Gospel

- He offers no resistance at all, but rather manifests emotional excitement in his response to the message.
- He is eating it up with joy and enthusiasm
- This sort of person stands out above most others.
- He is often more vocal in talking about his experience and may even be more zealous in church attendance and other activities as well.

Shallow acceptance of the Gospel is encouraged by shallow evangelism that holds out the blessing of Heaven and the benefits of the Kingdom, but hides the cost such as repenting of sin, forsaking sin, dying to selfish desires.

Jesus has often reminded the crowds of the cost of following Him – persecution, take up your cross and follow Me

The soil of his heart being shallow means that the change was shallow.

- The surface was altered, but the heart remained the same
- His feelings were changed, but not his soul
- There is no repentance, no brokenness, no contrite heart, and no humility—which is a mark of true conversion

He's had a religious experience, but not salvation that is evidenced by the fact of vs. 21.

### **Vs. 21**

The Gospel penetrated his thinking, but has not penetrated the heart and it is therefore, immediately renounced as it was immediately received

His house was built on the sand of emotional experience and when the storms came, it was washed away.

Notice that the falling away came immediately – after the sun came up and scorched him

Now, it may be one month, six months, or two years—before affliction over Christ and His Word comes—the tough time exposes his heart!

We are not talking about ordinary hardships or troubles of life, but specifically problems that result because of the Word – vs. 21

- Homosexual, role of the woman, gambling, alcohol
- Ashamed of Jesus Christ, the Gospel, Bible



His sham faith soon withers - His profession had no conviction  
Some people say “yes” to everything—hard time saying “no”

The ultimate mark of a genuine believer is fruit-bearing

He not only hears, he understands, and he bears fruit.

Spiritual fruit of attitude – described in Galatians: “Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self control.”

The Book of Psalms –

*“Like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth its fruit, its leaf shall not wither, whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”*

All of the scriptures – it testifies of true believers as those who bear fruit.

- We are saved and then we bear fruit
- Created in Christ Jesus unto good works
- The heart is ready – the good seed of the Gospel
- Born again and then we bear fruit

When we don’t – we’d better question our salvation

Matthew 13:23 – differing yields

- Believers will differ in fruit because we differ in commitment, laziness, spiritual gift, obedience, allowance of sin

Many reasons for the differences – the bottom line is – true believers produce fruit!

Jesus is true, how about you?

Some people are glad to receive it, but soon fall away – they had an experience, but they were not born again – they live by the flesh – controlled by emotions and feelings.

Others will accept the Word of God but want to hold on to their sin – their faith will prove vain and disappear as it is choked out by the world.

But others will truly believe

- In humility, they will confess and repent of their sins
- Look to Jesus for help and begin a new life
- It will be evident and be evidenced by fruit

Jesus is true, how about you?

Let us stand for closing invitation

Maybe you are here this morning

Pastor, my heart is hard like the hard-packed soil, but the Spirit of God and the Word of God is breaking up the ground.

God can plow up that old hard heart

Allow the Spirit to remove the rocky resistance

Allow the Spirit to remove the weeds of the world

Turn to God without reservation – confess your sins – ask for forgiveness – ask Jesus Christ to save your soul. Christ died for our sins.

Jesus said in John 6:37 – *“Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out.”*

Is there fruit in your life?

Is there any evidence that would convict you of being a true follower of Jesus Christ?

Believer, what we are to do is faithfully spread the seed as far and as wide as possible. Even a child, even an untrained spreader of seed will do better than an experienced believer who sows no seeds.