

Set in Stone

2 Timothy 2:19

Introduction:

- A. *It's set in stone*, is a common phrase to indicate that something cannot be c_____.
1. Many inscriptions on Washington D.C.'s historic stone buildings are s_____ and references to God – these are reminders of the founding principles of our nation.
 2. 2 Tim 2:19 contains two inscriptions written on the unchanging foundation of God (metaphorically speaking)
 - a. Even though false teaching had upset the faith of some (v. 18), God's foundation firmly s_____.
 - b. The inscriptions have to do with a believer's s_____ and a believer's p_____.
- B. Have you ever had spiritual doubts such as:
1. Am I really saved?
 2. Did I lose my salvation?
 3. Did a certain sin or a series of sin disqualify me from eternal life?

Security of the believer (19a)

- A. An inscription (NAS – seal)
1. The ancient practice of identifying the o_____ of something (e.g. pottery; important documents)
 2. The inscription of 2 Tim 2:19 is written on God's foundation which is metaphorically made of s_____. So it cannot be changed or erased.
 - a. Eph 2:20 – the church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the c_____ stone.
 - b. Matt 16:18 – Jesus would build His church on r_____ (metaphoric of Peter confessing Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God).
- B. The first inscription – *The Lord knows those who are His*
1. The Lord's knowledge defined
 - a. The Lord knows e_____; He is not going to forget who belongs to Him.
 - b. However, the Greek word translated as “know” does not refer to knowing facts, but knowing p_____

2. The Lord knows believers in a way that He does not know unbelievers (Matt 7:23 – Jesus will say to many, *I never k_____ you.*)
 3. Jesus uses the illustration of a s_____ to illustrate His personal relationship with believers (Jn 10:24 – *I know My own and they know Me*).
- C. On what do you base the security of your relationship to the Lord?
1. On f_____?
 - a. Feelings are not the basis for t_____
 - b. I John was written to rid believers of their d_____ of their salvation (I Jn 5:13).
 2. On God's w_____?
 - a. Rev 2:17 – God is so personal with us that each believer will have a unique n_____ only known by that believer and God.
 - b. Jn 10:27,28 – Jesus gives e_____ life (not temporary)
 - 1) We will n_____ perish
 - 2) No one will be able to s_____ us from Christ's hands (we belong to Him forever).
- D. Some misunderstand this doctrine of the eternal security of the believer to mean that a believer can sin all they want. But the next inscription says otherwise.

Purity of the believer (19b)

A. The second inscription – *All who name the name of the Lord must abstain from wickedness.*

1. The NLT misses the point by interpreting those who name the Lord's name are *those who belong to the Lord*. There are many who name the Lord's name that do not belong to Him:
 - a. Matt 7:23 – religious d_____ done in Jesus's name by unbelievers.
 - b. Acts 19:14 – the seven sons of Sceva tried to cast out d_____ in Jesus's name even though they were not believers in Christ.
2. All who profess to be believers in Christ
 - a. Put themselves in a position of accountability to the c_____ body.
 - 1) Believers are to lovingly c_____ sin of professing believers (Gal 6:1)
 - 2) If no confrontation is done, that sin will s_____ throughout the church (I Cor 5:6,7,13).
 - 3) Loving confrontation weeds out those who profess Christ but are not really believers.

b. Abstaining from wickedness

- 1) This is not talking about p_____ but a lifestyle. Are you striving to overcome sin in your life?
- 2) Jesus did not pay for our sin so that we could continue in sin (Rom 6:1) but so that we could be f_____ from it.

Conclusion:

