

## BE STRONG IN THE GRACE

### 2 TIMOTHY 2.1-7

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. The grace of God which brings salvation has appeared to all men. Yet one must grow and develop in the grace he has received.
2. To Timothy, Paul instructs him on how to be a strong and productive member of the body of Christ. (2 Tim. 2.1)
3. To be strong in the grace, every Christian ought to consider what Paul has to say. (2 Tim. 1.7)

#### I. A STRONG CHRISTIAN TEACHES OTHERS

- A. **VERSE 2:** *“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men...”*
- B. Christians are always learning, but the time comes when we *“ought to be teachers”* (Heb. 5.12; Ezra 7.10; 1 Pet. 3.15)
- C. Who are we to teach? *“faithful men who will be able to teach others also”* (2 Tim. 2.2; Ezra 7.25; Rom. 12.7)

#### II. A STRONG CHRISTIAN ENDURES HARDSHIP

- A. **VERSE 3:** *“You therefore must endure hardship...”*
  1. Faithful Christians will suffer hardship. (2 Tim. 3.12)
  2. Biblical examples of men who endured help strengthen us to endure. (2 Tim. 3.10,11; Heb. 12.2,3)
- B. How one chooses to respond to hardship indicates the strength of his faith. (Heb. 10.32-36)

#### III. A STRONG CHRISTIAN STAYS FOCUSED

- A. **VERSE 4:** *“No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life,”* (cf. Luke 8.14)
- B. Christians must not allow themselves to become distracted, but be single-minded in their service. (Phil. 3.13-15)

#### IV. A STRONG CHRISTIAN FOLLOWS THE RULES

- A. **VERSE 5:** *“And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.”*
  1. Christians are engaged in a spiritual race in which he ought to run as one who will win. (1 Cor. 9.24)
  2. Yet some believe the rules do not apply to them.
- B. Following the rules, Paul awaited a crown. (2 Tim. 4.7,8)

**CONCLUSION:** Labor always comes before the reward. (v. 6)

## NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ♦ North Las Vegas, NV ♦ 89030  
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: [Pruitt@nlvchurchofchrist.com](mailto:Pruitt@nlvchurchofchrist.com)  
[www.nlvchurchofchrist.com](http://www.nlvchurchofchrist.com)

#### MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS :	9:00AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP:	9:50AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP:	6:00PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS	7:30PM

*Worshipping  
God “in Spirit  
and truth”  
(John 4.23)*

NOVEMBER 15TH, 2009

### BAPTISM: FROM HEAVEN OR MEN?

When Jesus asked if John baptized by the authority of God or if he was acting on his own, the chief priests and elders were at a loss of how to answer. They reasoned that if they say that he received authority from God, then Jesus will ask why they did not believe? However, if they say that it came from men, then they were afraid of how the people would react, for many saw John as a prophet (Matt. 21.23-27).

The same dilemma exists today regarding baptism. If baptism originated and is commanded by God then many in the religious world must answer why they do not baptize. However, if these same groups who do not baptize contend that baptism comes from man, then they must contradict those apostles and prophets who teach it within the Bible.

Baptism is indeed commanded as a necessary condition for salvation. Peter told the Jewish crowd, *“repent and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins”* (Acts 2.38). Peter told his readers that *“there is an antitype that now saves us – baptism”* (1 Pet. 3.21).

That baptism refers to immersion into water rather than Holy Spirit baptism is also made clear. When Jesus was baptized He *“immediately came up out of the water”* (Matt. 3.16). When Philip preached Jesus to the Ethiopian Eunuch, he responded, *“See, here is water, what hinders me from being baptized?”* (Acts 8.36).

Baptism does indeed come from God. And all must obey it.

## “HALLOWED BY YOUR NAME”

### MATTHEW 6:9

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Teaching the disciples how to pray Jesus began by addressing the Father, “*Hallowed by Your name*” (Matt. 6.9)
2. “Hallowed” [Gk: HAGIAZO] Passive, Imperative, Verb, indicating a request for action on the part of the petitioned.
3. It ought to be the desire of every Christian to exalt, highly esteem, and sanctify the name of God.

#### I. WHAT IS IN A NAME?

- A. A name is synonymous with reputation. It is a perception formed by one’s actions. (Gen. 11.4; 2 Sam. 7.8,9; 8.13)
- B. **PSALM 111.9:** “*Holy and awesome is His name.*”
  1. Beginning in Egypt, God established a reputation of One who is to be feared. (Ex. 3.13-15; Neh. 9.10; Jer. 32.20)
  2. **REVELATION 15.4:** “*Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? You alone are holy...*”

#### II. THE NAME OF GOD IS HOLY

- A. God has always demanded the highest respect and fear.
  1. So important is it to have a true perception of Him, God directly commanded it. (Ex. 20.6; Lev. 19.12)
  2. Yet often Israel did not fear His good name. (Mal. 1.14)
  3. Israel’s hypocrisy caused His name to be blasphemed as God was misrepresented by His people. (Rom. 2.24)
- B. Therefore God protected His name in His treatment of the children of Israel. (Num. 14.12-16; Ezek. 36.20-24)

#### III. CHRISTIANS REPRESENT THE NAME OF GOD

- A. The world’s perception of God is directly connected to what they see in those who are Christians. (Phil. 2.14,15)
- B. Do we display the true character of God in our lives?
  1. Does the world see purity or immorality? (1 Pet 1.15,16)
  2. Does the world see unity or division? (John 17.21)
  3. Does the world see brethren or enemies? (1 Cor. 6.6)
  4. Does the world see love for the lost? (Matt. 16.26)
  5. Does the world see harshness or forgiveness? (Eph. 4.32)

**CONCLUSION:** Christians must always do all they can to exalt the name of God before the world.

## FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS

Most will agree that life is about being happy. It is the search for that one thing that gives our life meaning and pleasure, satisfaction and fulfillment. Most go through their lives searching for that one thing and never finding it. On occasion they may discover that which gives them a temporary sense of happiness, but in time it loses its luster and one again finds himself looking.

Solomon was a man who had it all. He had all that man typically seeks after to obtain happiness. He had wealth, family, power, and wisdom. But even with all that he had, he still felt there was something missing. So Solomon embarked on a search to find what makes man happy. At the end of his long and burdensome endeavor this is what he concluded. **ECCLESIASTES 12.13,14:** “*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.*”

Why ought we to fear God and keep His commandments? There is a day coming in which we are all going to be judged for the things we say and do. Paul warned that “*we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ that each one may receive the things done in the body...*” (2 Cor. 5.10).

God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness (Acts 17.31). Everyone will stand in judgment where it will be determined if they have feared God and have kept His commandments. However, while God is a God of judgment, He is also a God of mercy and grace. It is not His desire that we spend eternity in torment. God does not want for anyone to perish, but for all to come to repentance (2 Pet. 3.19). Through Ezekiel, God said, “*I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live*” (Ezek. 33.11).

To save man from his sin (defined as breaking God’s commandments 1 John 3.4), God gave forth His Son Jesus who died on the cross. Through the shedding of His blood, the cleansing agent was provided (1 John 1.7). And those who obey the gospel are cleansed of their past sin and can then begin a new spiritual life fearing God and keeping His commandments. Why? Because this is man’s all. CLP