

“2 Timothy 2:19—Part 1”

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By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—It is my perspective that a verse in 2 Timothy 2:19 has a powerful instruction for children of the Most High God.

Context of letter

Before we read the verse, let’s take a brief look at the context.

- 2 Timothy 1:5—Paul reminded Timothy of the genuine faith of grandmother Lois and mother Eunice.
- 2 Timothy 1:15—Paul mentioned two people who turned away from him.
- 2 Timothy 1:16-18—Paul mentioned one individual who searched out Paul in Rome and comforted him.
- 2 Timothy 2:14—Paul reminded them to avoid striving about words.
- 2 Timothy 2:15—Paul reminded them to rightly divide the word of truth.
- 2 Timothy 2:16—Paul reminded them to shun profane and idle babblings.
- 2 Timothy 2:17-18—Paul mentioned two people who spread untruthful messages like a cancer.

2 Timothy 2:19—“Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.’ ”

The Lord knows, we don’t know

At this time, I would like to give you two warnings.

- Please don’t give religious leaders power over you—by letting them label who has God’s Spirit. It is not a religious leader’s place to label who is of the Lord.
- Please don’t imitate the mistake of religious leaders by your labeling who has God’s Spirit. It is not our place to label who is of the Lord.

Let’s fill our minds with the Word of God.

Every person on earth?

Isn't every person on earth "His" creation? Absolutely.

John 3:16—"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Know everybody?

Doesn't the Lord "know" everybody? Of course.

Matthew 10:30—"But the very hairs of your head are all numbered."

Is the Lord actively working with every person at this time?

Matthew 7:23—"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

Matthew 25:12—"But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'"

Matthew 20:16—"For many are called, but few chosen."

Matthew 22:14—"For many are called, but few are chosen."

1 Corinthians 15:23—"But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming."

Growth involves discerning behavior

Hebrews 5:14—"But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Removal involves bad behavior

Removal of a person from a congregation is a matter of behavior—not a matter of labeling his relationship with God.

1 Corinthians 5:4-5—"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

Quit calling people "unconverted" (whether they are former members of a congregation or present weak members of a congregation).

1 Timothy 1:20—"Of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme."

Removal concerns behavior, not labels.

Was Noah unconverted?

Genesis 9:20-21—"And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. Then he drank of the wine and was drunk and became uncovered in his tent."

Was David unconverted?

2 Samuel 11:4—"Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her."

2 Samuel 11:14-15—"In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. And he wrote in the letter, saying, 'Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die.' "

To judge or not to judge?

Matthew 7:1—"Judge not [condemn not], that you be not judged [condemned]."

1 Corinthians 2:15—"But he who is spiritual judges [discerns] all things."

Time will tell

1 Corinthians 4:5—"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God."

1 Timothy 5:24—"Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later."

Matthew 7:20—"Therefore by their fruits you will [ultimately] know them."

Matthew 13:30—"Let both [wheat and tares] grow together until the harvest . . ."

Do not blaspheme

While the Bible instructs us to discern behavior, it also warns us about the danger of attributing a lack of the Holy Spirit to other people.

Do you really think it is wise to be giving your opinion about who has the Holy Spirit?

Matthew 12:32—"Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come."

Depart from iniquity

In next week's article, we will focus upon the second part of 2 Timothy 2:19: "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."