

*1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

*6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. 2 Tim 4:1-8*

We come now to the final chapter of Paul's second letter to Timothy, his *true child in the faith*. In this letter Paul was encouraging Timothy to *continue in the things he had learned*. Timothy had learned of the Christian faith from his mother and grandmother, from Paul but most importantly from the scriptures, *from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus*. This was Timothy's foundation and Paul declared this footing to be sure and exhorted Timothy to not be tempted from this course on account of trials, persecutions, or false teachers.

As we look at this fourth chapter of 2 Timothy, we find last Paul's exhortations to this young preacher. We see how forcefully Paul makes his appeal for Timothy to *preach the word*. It is like Paul was winding up to throw a fast ball or some great declaration worthy of complete the listeners complete attention, *I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom*. This is somewhat similar to our swearing to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God. Paul states, *I solemnly charge you, I affirm solemnly*. The Greek word Paul uses is *diamarturomai* (thoroughly witness, martyr) Paul made a similar statement to this in his first letter to Timothy.

*21 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality. 1 Timothy 5:21*

I charge you, *in the presence of God (the Creator and owner of all things) and of Christ Jesus (the Anointed One, Messiah)*. For the Christian there can be no higher appeal. We are to pray in the name (authority) of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus commissioned the disciples to *go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit*. Here Paul reminds Timothy that *Christ is to judge the living and the dead*. Peter in Acts 10:42 proclaimed to the Gentiles in the house of Cornelius, *He (Christ) ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead*. Paul's appeal for authority was to Creator God and to Christ the Messiah, the judge of all, but who also has established an eternal kingdom for the children of God.

Timothy is to look forward to Christ's appearing and His kingdom. In the NT we have the 'advent' of Christ, God made flesh, born as a child, offering His life as the sacrifice for sin. This is the saving light, life Christ shed for all mankind, *the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel*,

*immorality to light (φωτίσαντος); 2 Timothy 1:10 Christ,*

*who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 10but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 2 Tim 1:9, 10 (epipháneia) – always used of Christ's coming (once of His first coming, 2 Tim 1:10).*

We use the term I had an epiphany (a sudden, intuitive perception of or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something). The Roman Church celebrates, Epiphany, the revelation that Jesus was the Son of God and became flesh. It focuses primarily on this revelation to the Three Wise Men. Epiphany in this sense is *an appearance or manifestation, especially of a deity.*

*1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. John 1:1-5*

The Light coming to enlighten spiritually, imbue with saving knowledge: *τινα*, John 1:9; with a saving knowledge of the gospel: hence, *photisthentes*, *φωτισθέντες* of those who have been made Christians, 9*There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. John 1:9* This is in reference to Christ's first coming, the advent. But there is another appearing Paul refers to, *His appearing*, upon Christ's return. Paul states Christ will appear again, *in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. 2 Tim 4:8*

*11For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. Titus 2:11-13*

*I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom. 2 Tim 4:1* Paul doesn't deny the harsh reality of the Christian life in this world. Earlier in this letter he wrote Timothy, *Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 2 Tim 3:12* Paul encourages Timothy to look forward to a better world.

*1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Heb 12:1-3*

The "kingdom" here spoken of is to commence at Christ's glorious epiphany or manifestation, when "the kingdoms of the world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15).