

# Notes For: Believing/Behaving

## A Topical Study of 2 Timothy 2:19

### Introduction

In 2 Timothy 2:19, the apostle Paul makes an unusual pause in his encouragements to Timothy. The statement almost takes on the tone of a benediction. But the reason for this pause, in its context, provides very practical instruction for every one of us as Christians.

### (1) Believing Results In Behaving (2 Timothy 2:19)

#### ■ Conversion to Christ Produces A Changed Life

- >> saved by faith for good works (the declarative; Ephesians 2:8-10)
- >> departing iniquity/embracing righteousness (the formula: Ephesians 4:22-24)
- >> **Application #1:** God looks at the heart (Proverbs 4:23; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5)
- >> **Application #2:** Behaving is a must (Titus 2:14; James 2:14)
- >> **Application #3:** Resolving the dilemma (Hebrews 12:7-11; 1 John 2:19)

#### ■ Conversion to Christ Overcomes Satanic Strategies

- >> a clear and present danger (1 Peter 5:8; 2 Corinthians 11:3)
- >> designs of deception (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 5:5-6)
- >> contemporary contrivances captivating Christians
  - >> political activism // secular psychology // doctrinal irrelevance
- >> the New Testament alternative for Christian engagement
  - >> pursue // protect // promote
- >> **Application #1:** Resist his influence (1 Peter 5:9; James 4:7; Ephesians 4:26-27)
- >> **Application #2:** Stand firm when attacked (Ephesians 6:10-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:15)
- >> **Application #3:** Contend earnestly for doctrinal integrity (Jude 3; Acts 20:28-32)

### (2) Behaving Reinforces Believing (John 13:17)

#### ■ A Changed Life Eliminates Doubt

- >> doubts from within (2 Peter 1:2-11; 1 Thessalonians 3:5)
- >> doubts from without (1 John 2:4; 2 Timothy 2:19a)

#### ■ A Changed Life Elevates Hope

- >> a hope that enables us to cope (Romans 8:18-25; 8:35-39; Hebrews 11:1)
- >> by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:12-16; 15:13; Colossians 1:3-8)

### (3) Believing/Behaving Requires Maintaining (Philippians 2:12-13; 3:12-16)

#### ■ The Christian Life: “a cooperative effort”

- >> Christ’s yoke (Matthew 11:28-30)
- >> our acceptance (Psalm 32:8-9)

#### ■ The Christian Life: “a high maintenance life”

- >> hindrances from within (Romans 7:21-25)
- >> hindrances from without (1 Peter 5:8)