

Christ Guards the Deposit, 2 Timothy 1:12d

We have the aorist active infinitive of the verb: *phulasso* - “to guard; defend; protect.”

Remember that a cache is a place of refuge into which something of value is placed. We will soon note that the item which Paul has deposited for safekeeping, protection, and deliverance is his soul.

He has deposited his soul into the care of Jesus Christ. Christ is the Cache which protects, guards, and ultimately delivers the human souls committed to Him through faith.

aorist: Culminative; views the action of the verb in its entirety but emphasizes its existing results. It first views the moment of Paul’s salvation on the Damascus Road but emphasizes the existing result which is his eternal security.

active: Jesus Christ produces the action of guarding Paul’s soul. It is impossible for Him to fail in His efforts since He guards it from the source of His divine omnipotence.

infinitive: Actual result; Paul’s soul is guarded by Christ.

Please note the power of the Greek language to communicate an absolute concept. We have noted two very important tenses in our exegesis. The first is the dramatic perfect of the verb: *pisteuo*.

For I know intensively in Whom I have believed ... Again, this dramatic perfect emphasizes two things:

- a. The action described takes place in past time and is a completed action, and
- b. the results of a completed action go on forever.

In context the completed action which took place in past time was Paul’s deposit of his soul into Christ’s safekeeping through faith alone. The existing result is that he stands saved forever.

How can we and Paul have confidence that this is true? The second tense of import is the culminative aorist of the verb: *phulasso*

... *I have received confidence that He keeps on being able to guard ...*

Views the action of the verb in its entirety but with emphasis on the results.

Jesus Christ received the deposit of Paul’s soul on the Damascus Road and under the principle of divine omnipotence He is able to guard, protect, and deliver Paul’s soul without fail.

What may we calculate from these tenses? Once saved, always saved!

Next comes the item of value which is placed into the cache of Christ. It is the vocabulary word for our doctrine, the accusative singular direct object from the noun: *paratheke* - “deposit.”

Paul stepped out on faith and entrusted Jesus Christ with the protection, safekeeping, and deliverance of his soul. This is an agreement of trust which requires Paul to place his faith in the integrity, the rectitude, and the probity of Jesus Christ.

Is Christ able to keep His end of the bargain? Is entrée into heaven really and truly based upon our simple willingness to trust in Christ to save our souls? How can we be sure that salvation and subsequent entrée into heaven are not also dependent upon human works? How can we be sure they are not dependent upon some system of ascetic behavioral development as is advocated by the Muslims, the Buddhists, the Hindus, or the Mormons?

We don't know. Christianity is a system of faith. Faith is a transitive verb which requires an object. The object of our faith is Christ. But Christ is not visible to us. He is presently in heaven at the right hand of the Father. The only way we can know of Him, His person, His work, and His present condition is through the Word of God.

Christianity demands that an individual place his total faith in the testimony of the Bible regarding the means of eternal salvation and entrée into God's heaven. And that testimony has been demonstrated in our context to be faith alone in Christ alone. We have no proof. Only our confidence in the fact that a just God would not leave us ignorant regarding the details of our eternal future.

The writer of Hebrews makes the issue crystal clear in:

Hebrews 11:1 - Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

As does Paul in:

2 Corinthians 5:7 - We walk by faith, not by sight.

By faith alone Paul deposited his soul into the cache of Jesus Christ and he developed an unwavering confidence through doctrine that the Lord is able to guard it, protect it, and deliver it without fail.

We are reminded of David's faith in:

Psalm 31:1 - In You, O Jehovah, I sought refuge; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness.

Psalm 31:2 - Incline Your ear to me; deliver me quickly; be a rock of refuge to me, a stronghold to save me.

David sought to tap the cache of God's faithfulness for temporal deliverance whereas Paul deposits his soul into the Lord's cache for eternal deliverance. Eternal deliverance from what? We have the preposition *eis* plus the accusative singular of the distant demonstrative pronoun: *ekeinos* - "against that."