

# 1 Timothy 2:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

## Analysis

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**Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing** (σωθήσεται δὲ διὰ τῆς τεκνογονίας, sōthēsetai de dia tēs teknogonias)—'yet she will be saved through childbearing.' This is one of Scripture's most debated verses. Sōzō (save) likely doesn't mean eternal salvation by bearing children (contradicting salvation by faith alone), but rather preservation or fulfillment through the role of motherhood. Teknogonia means childbearing, having children.

**If they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety** (εἰν μείνωσιν ἐν πίστει καὶ ἀγάπῃ καὶ ἀγιασμῷ μετὰ σωφροσύνης, ean meinōsin en pistei kai agapē kai hagiasmō meta sōphrosynēs)—'if they continue in faith and love and holiness with self-control.' The shift from 'she' (singular) to 'they' (plural) suggests Paul is speaking of women generally, not just Eve. Sōphrosynē means self-control, prudence, soundness of mind.

Multiple interpretations exist:

1. women find spiritual purpose/fulfillment in motherhood rather than teaching roles
2. women are preserved through childbirth's dangers by God's providence
3. reference to the Messiah's birth (the definite article in Greek—'the childbearing').

All emphasize that godly character and faithfulness matter more than public roles. Women's dignity and salvation aren't found in authority over men but in faithful living within God's design.

## Historical Context

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In the Ephesian context, false teachers apparently elevated women to inappropriate teaching roles (perhaps influenced by the cult of Artemis, whose female priestesses held authority). Paul corrects this by affirming women's value in their God-given roles—including motherhood—while requiring the same faithfulness all believers need: faith, love, holiness, self-control. The verse addresses specific Ephesian circumstances, not universal theology of women's salvation.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse affirm women's dignity and value in motherhood and domestic roles?
2. Why does Paul emphasize faith, love, holiness, and self-control as essential for all believers?
3. How do we interpret difficult passages like this faithfully without imposing our cultural assumptions?

## Interlinear Text

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σωθήσεται δὲ διὰ τῆς τεκνογονίας ἐὰν  
she shall be saved notwithstanding in G3588 childbearing if  
G4982 G1161 G1223 G5042 G1437

μείνωσιν ἐν πίστει καὶ ἀγάπῃ καὶ ἀγιασμῷ μετὰ  
they continue in faith and charity and holiness with  
G3306 G1722 G4102 G2532 G26 G2532 G38 G3326

σωφροσύνης.

sobriety

G4997

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Peter 4:7** (Parallel theme): But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

**Titus 2:12** (Parallel theme): Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

**1 Timothy 1:5** (Faith): Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

**1 Timothy 2:9** (Parallel theme): In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

**Isaiah 9:6** (Parallel theme): For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

**Isaiah 7:14** (Parallel theme): Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

**Luke 2:7** (Parallel theme): And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

