

2 Timothy 2:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:

Analysis

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him. Paul introduces a trustworthy creedal formula with "It is a faithful saying" (pistos ho logos, πιστὸς ὁ λόγος)—marking reliable, authoritative teaching worthy of full acceptance. What follows is likely an early Christian hymn or confession used in baptism or Lord's Supper, containing four conditional statements about union with Christ.

The first condition: "if we be dead with him" (ei gar synapethanomen, εἰ γὰρ συναπεθάνομεν) uses aorist tense indicating definitive past event. Believers died with Christ at conversion—identified with His death, sharing His crucifixion (Romans 6:3-8, Galatians 2:20). This isn't gradual process but completed reality. The prefix syn (σύν, "together with") emphasizes union—we died together with Christ when He died.

The promise: "we shall also live with him" (kai syzēsomen, καὶ συζήσομεν). Future tense points to resurrection life and eternal glory. Those united with Christ in His death will certainly share His resurrection life (Romans 6:8, Philippians 3:10-11). This isn't universal salvation but specific promise for those genuinely united to Christ by faith.

Historical Context

Early Christian hymns and creedal formulas preserved essential theology before New Testament completion. Churches recited these during worship, baptism, and Lord's Supper, reinforcing core doctrines. This particular formula likely accompanied baptism, which symbolized dying and rising with Christ (Romans 6:3-4). The four-fold structure (vv. 11-13) creates memorable poetry reinforcing union with Christ—the central reality of Christian existence.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Do you see your Christian life as genuine union with Christ in both His death and resurrection life?
2. How does knowing you 'died with Christ' at conversion affect your response to sin's appeals and the world's attractions?
3. What practical difference does believing you will 'live with him' eternally make in facing present trials and fears?

Interlinear Text

πιστὸς	ὁ	λόγος·	εἰ	γὰρ	συναπεθάνομεν	καὶ
It is a faithful	G3588	saying	if	For	we be dead with	also
G4103		G3056	G1487	G1063	G4880	G2532

συζήσομεν·

him we shall

G4800

Additional Cross-References

Romans 6:8 (Faith): Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

1 Timothy 1:15 (Faith): This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Romans 6:5 (Parallel theme): For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

John 14:19 (Parallel theme): Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

2 Corinthians 13:4 (Parallel theme): For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

2 Corinthians 4:10 (Parallel theme): Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 (Parallel theme): Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:10 (Parallel theme): Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

Titus 3:8 (Faith): This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.