Foundational Understandings
2 Timothy 2:19

Objective: Inspire hearers to greater confidence and response to the Presence of God.
Reading: 2 Timothy 2:14-19.
Introduction:
1. At times folks worry about things. At times folks doubt that God is our shield and protector. At times our hearts fill with anxiety - maybe for our own well being, at times for the well being of the church.
2. At times folks live as if God is not around or not aware, so folks try to "sneak" by with a variety of sins, pretending that God won't know or won't care, so their lives don't reflect the holiness and purity and devotion that are supposed to be characteristic of Christians.
3. If you KNEW that the God of all creation was right there watching you and watching over you, what would that do to your Christian walk?

We ought to be aware of foundational truths of Christianity. (WHAT?)

In 2 Timothy 2:19, in discussing problems that Timothy must stand against and endeavoring to encourage and strengthen him in his personal walk and in his ministry, the Apostle relates a couple of undeniable realities that ought to motivate our lives before God. The Apostle refers to them jointly as a "seal". A "seal" is like the little wire tag placed on your gas meter, or the official stamp placed on you car title or deed, to ensure that nobody tampers with it. Image drawn upon is of an official building (the church - which is you, Christian, since the church is the people) that has a writing on each side of it's foundation, indicating its reliability and stability.

The first part of that "seal", the first thing we should know is that

I. "The Lord knows those who are His". 2 Timothy 2:19, ***"Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," …"***

A. There is confidence and comfort here for Christians.
   1. Do you know that God knows who you are? (could name names and personal circumstances) Do you know that God is aware of your circumstances? Do you know that this is a personal thing - God is aware of your plight.
   2. 1 Corinthians 8:3, ***"…but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him."***
   3. Verse stems from Old Testament incident in Numbers 16:5, in which the Lord clearly identifies and saves those who are His and destroys those who say they are His but are in reality objecting to the expectations of God following their own hearts. ***"and he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, "Tomorrow morning the LORD will show who is His, and who is holy, and will bring him near to Himself; even the one whom He will choose, He will bring near to Himself."***
   4. People can confuse the issue. They were objecting to God speaking to them through Moses, and declaring that all of them were holy. Moses was simply standing and speaking the Word of God. Moses could have caved in to their pressure but He knew that God chose him to speak.

B. Remember this when you feel lost and abandoned.
   1. Hebrews 13:5-6, ***"Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," [6] so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"***
   2. If you are called upon to stand alone for the truth - in school, at work, at home - know that God knows that you are His.

C. Remember this when you are threatened or frightened.
   1. When evil or misfortune are oppressing you.
   2. When you are faced with ill health or scornful difficult people.
   3. When this world seems to be winning over Christianity, godliness and the church.
   4. When difficult time come and evil men proceed from bad to worse.

5. When you feel like the church is loosing. Whenever you are thoroughly discouraged.
6. In John 17 - Jesus relates that He has not lost any that the Father has given Him, but that he had kept them, guarded them and none of them perished.
7. KNOW for certain that God knows those who are His and that the Good Shepherd will indeed and thoroughly protect His sheep.

D. Remember this when you don't know what to do.
1. God knows you are His. This means that like a good Father, He is compassionately watching, governing and helping to assure you make good choices. In fact, talk to Him. Ask His help and know He cares and is there.
2. If a Christian could remember one memory verse to quote to themselves in difficult times, this would be a good one.
3. If I can remember this one thing. I can stand faithful against any temptation, and foe or enemy, I can face any problem with faith and courage. Because I know that I belong to the Lord, and the Lord know those who are His.

The second part of that "seal", the other thing all people professing faith in God should know is that

II. "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness".

2 Timothy 2:19, ***"Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."***

A. A Christian can not continue in sin.
1. No arguments. No debate or discussion. This is a "must". If you call on His name, or carry His name, this must happen!
2. Here is how you can know that you are His and are known by Him.
3. Here is how you can develop and acquire confidence in God's love and protection of you.
4. If God were standing right behind you or you could see Him across the room watching you, would you still do the same things, use the same words, yield to the same temptations? Be worried and fearful about the same things?

B. You can tell people's real nature by their fruit.
1. Who are the false teachers? They are folks who look like Christians and call themselves Christians, and regularly call on the name of the Lord, but they can be identified as not really belonging to Christ because they continue in wickedness.
2. Matthew 7:15-20, ***"Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. [16] "You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? [17] "So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. [18] "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. [19] "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. [20] "So then, you will know them by their fruits."***
3. Matthew 7:21-23, ***"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. [22] "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' [23] "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'***
4. The quote may stem from an Old Testament incident in which people professed holiness, professed to follow God, but were in fact rebelling against God's instructions and expectations and seeking to assert their own feelings and inclinations. Numbers 16:25-26, ***"Then Moses arose and went to Dathan and Abiram, with the elders of Israel following him, [26] and he spoke to the congregation, saying, "Depart now from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing that belongs to them, or you will be swept away in all their sin."***
5. What is your real commitment and your real nature? Those who are God's genuinely and earnestly seek after and humbly comply with God's will.

C. Those who belong to God demonstrate it with godly lives.
1. 2 Timothy 2:21-22, ***"Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a***

vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. [22] Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."

2. Ephesians 1:4, ***"just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him."***
3. A faithful Christian is like a gold or silver vessel that brings honor to Jesus Christ. What are you doing with your life?
4. The church of our Lord outwardly contains those who are His and those who are not. It contains vessels that are of honor and vessels that are not of honor.
   a. Always has, always will, until the Lord separates them on the last day.
   b. This is why folks sometimes complain that there are hypocrites in church - there are!
   c. So Jesus' parable about the "Tares".

D. A matter of separation and of holiness.

1. It is popular and common today to lean on grace and emphasize grace to such an extent that I can do anything. Truth is that the grace of God is what we must lean on. It is impossible to be saved without it. YET, in this passage and in many other passages, Christians are warned and urged, by Jesus, Himself and by Christ's Apostles to separate themselves for their own spiritual welfare. Paul is here, urging, warning Timothy to not associate with "Christian" teachers who teach falsely.
   a. What does that say to us about participation in certain "ecumenical" movements? It says, be very, very careful that you do not endorse false teachings or become contaminated by them. Sometimes we may be able to participate, depending on the nature of our differences, and sometimes we clearly must not join with them.
   b. 2 Timothy 2:19 b, ***"Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."*** Involves not only your own personal temptations, but that of others that might contaminate.
   c. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, ***"Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? [15] Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? [16] Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. [17] "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. [18] "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty."*** Surely this includes servants of Satan that appear as angels of light. Surely it includes those who do many good works in the name of Christ, yet deny Him by their actions when they cling to what God calls abominable practices.
2. 1 John 3:2-3, ***"Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. [3] And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."*** Those who are His are serious about purifying themselves so they can stand in His presence and bring Him honor with their lives.

So What?:

Know that God is, indeed, present. Know that God is watching with care and expectation over those who are His.

Closing Prayer:

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Undeniable realities to motivate our lives before God.

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1 Corinthians 8:3 Numbers 16:5

B. Remember this when you feel lost and abandoned.
Hebrews 13:5-6

C. Remember this when you are threatened or frightened.

D. Remember this when you don't know what to do.

II. Christians "… abstain from wickedness". 2 Timothy 2:19

A. A Christian can not continue in sin.

B. You can tell people's real nature by their fruit.
Matthew 7:15-20 Matthew 7:21-23

C. Those who belong to God demonstrate it with godly lives.
2 Timothy 2:21-22 Ephesians 1:4

D. A matter of separation and of holiness.
2 Timothy 2:19 b 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 1 John 3:2-3

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