

Confidence is Built on Knowledge, 2 Timothy 1:12b

epaischunomai - present middle indicative:

present: Customary; denotes what habitually occurs when a mature believer faces suffering or adversity.

The customary present indicates that once the believer reaches maturity, the emotional sin of shame regarding the Gospel has been completely habituated in the brain's long-term memory traces. At the same time, the complete absence of shame is made possible by the facilitation of several wheel-tracks of righteousness including a courage based on virtue love, self-discipline, and delegated divine power. This mental attitude is characterized by great inner blessing and soul tranquility while in the face of intense personal adversity.

middle: Indirect; emphasizes Paul as the agent who produces the action of the verb by not being ashamed. indicative: Declarative; a statement of negative reality. With the negative conjunction *ouk* Paul does not produce the action of being ashamed but instead says, "*I am not ashamed.*"

Next comes the explanation for the mental attitude. It is introduced by the post positive use of the explanatory conjunction: *gar* - "for" followed by the perfect active indicative of the verb: *oida* - "*I know.*"

perfect: Intensive; places emphasis on existing results, an existing fact, or a finished product. It is the strong way of saying that a fact is.

active: Paul produces the action. He has totally facilitated wheel-tracks which form a constellation on certain biblical subjects.

indicative: A statement of fact. Paul has complete understanding of these doctrines.

What are the doctrines that have become so facilitated in Paul's stream of consciousness and memory traces? Salvation and eternal security.

In order to have complete confidence in these two doctrines you must have complete confidence in the Person who backs them up. That Person is of course Jesus Christ in Whom Paul has deposited his faith and trust.

When you do business with a financial agent and make a deposit with an economic institution, you only do so after you have developed confidence in their fiduciary track records. You cannot be guaranteed that you will make a profit, will not suffer a loss, or will not lose your principle.

Nevertheless, you go ahead and make the deposit because you trust the man enough to take him at his word. But you gain confidence when you learn of the agent's past successes and the institutions record of return on other customers' portfolios.

What about Jesus Christ as One whom we may trust with the deposit of our souls? Is He trustworthy? What kind of record does He have on the saving of souls? To be honest with you, we don't know! We have no prospectus of future performance, there is no annual report documenting past successes.

So, when we place our faith in Christ for salvation our confidence increases based on accumulated knowledge that confirms for us several things:

1. Fulfillment of prophecy which indicates He is the Messiah.
 - a. There are over 300 prophecies regarding the Messiah which are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

- b. These include the facts He would be born Jewish, from the tribe of Judah, house of David, in Bethlehem, of a virgin; would be declared the Son of God by a forerunner; be a priest after the order of Melchizedek; would proclaim Messiahship by entering Jerusalem on a donkey; would be betrayed by a friend for thirty pieces of silver; be accused by false witnesses; be silent before His accusers; smitten and spit upon by His enemies; crucified with sinners; would pray for His adversaries; have His side pierced but without breaking any bones; be buried in a rich man's tomb; be resurrected; and ascend into heaven.
2. Genetic circumstances which made it possible for Him to be Messiah.
 - a. Since He had no human father, He did not inherit a sinful nature in the cell structure of His body.
 - b. Since He had no sinful nature then the justice of God was not compelled to impute to Him Adam's original sin.
 - c. Throughout the Incarnation He never committed a personal sin.
 3. Performance of certain acts which validate His claims to be Messiah.
 - a. Miracles: Water transformed into wine; the 5,000 fed, the calming of the storm; walking on water; the Transfiguration; resuscitation of Lazarus.
 - b. Healings: The politician's son, Peter's mother-in-law, the centurion's servant, men with leprosy, palsy, and withered hands; the deaf, blind, mute, and lame.
 - c. Castings

ekballo: The blind and dumb man in Matthew 12; the man in the synagogue in Mark 1; the deranged man possessed Legion in Mark 5; the boy in Mark 9.
 4. His substitutionary sacrifice through which He offered Himself as our Savior.

Matthew 20:28 – ... the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and for the purpose to give [infinitive of purpose of *didomi*] His life [*psuche*: soul, i.e., spiritual death] as a substitutionary ransom for many [ransom: *lutron*; for: anti; many: genitive of substitution of *pollon*].
 5. Divine approval of His effort which confirms His identity as Savior.

Matthew 28:6 - He is not here, for He has risen. [Resurrection]

Acts 1:9 - And after He had said these things, Jesus was lifted up while they were looking on and a cloud received Him out of their sight. [Ascension]

Romans 8:34 - Christ Jesus is He who died, yes rather who was resurrected, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. [Session]

This knowledge is available only in Scripture by means of the Grace Apparatus for Perception, and may be metabolized only through faith.

Paul confirms his advanced status in the field of Christology and soteriology when he says:

2 Timothy 1:12 - For this reason, I am caused to suffer these things but I am not ashamed, for I intensively know **[from long-term memory traces facilitated into constellations]** ...