

## Sermon Notes

# WORSHIP SERVICE - 8.6.2023

## PART 22 - THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF GRACE

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### 2 Timothy 1:8-14

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, **9** who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, **10** and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, **11** for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, **12** which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. **13** Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **14** By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

### II. GRACE ALONE

- Recap of last week's message: Our three-fold duty to the gospel:
- To courageously stand for the gospel
- "*Do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord*" - don't be ashamed of the message, not of Christ or his words.
- "*Nor of me his prisoner*" - don't be ashamed of the messenger
- To share in suffering for the gospel

- Suffering is to be expected because the gospel is opposed.
  - To faithfully keep the gospel
  - We must follow the pattern of sound words
  - We must guard the good deposit entrusted to us.
  - These can only be done by the power of God, through the Holy Spirit who dwells within us.
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- In the midst of those charges to Timothy, Paul takes a moment to amplify the glory of the gospel (9-10)
  - He magnifies the gospel so that Timothy could be reminded of and motivated by that which he is not to be ashamed of, that which he is to share in suffering for, and that which he is to faithfully keep and proclaim.
  - The gospel is the grounds of any confidence and courage we need in fulfilling our duty to the gospel.
  - Paul, in giving the weighty charge to Timothy, is also providing the gospel support that Timothy needs.
  - All of Paul's letters contain both indicatives (statement of what is true and factual), and imperatives (commands).
  - Indicatives describe who we are in Christ, imperatives describe what we do for Christ.
  - Indicatives define our new identity and reality in Christ Jesus, imperatives define our responsibilities to Christ Jesus and one another.
  - Obedience to Christ flows from our new relationship with Christ.
  - This is important so that we don't obey the commands of Scripture from a wrong motivation.
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- In these short phrases, Paul is reminding Timothy of the glorious gospel that will motivate his duties to the gospel.

## 1. THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR SALVATION

### a. SALVATION

- Salvation is so much more than just receiving the forgiveness of sins.
  - John Stott, commentary on 2 Timothy, *"Salvation' is a majestic word, denoting that comprehensive purpose of God by which he justifies, sanctifies and glorifies his people: first, pardoning our offenses and accepting us as righteous in his sight through Christ, then progressively transforming us by his Spirit into the image of his Son, until finally we become like Christ in heaven, with new bodies in a new world."*
  - To state that God saved us, is to speak of the comprehensive nature of that salvation.
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- God saved us - this is in the past tense.

- Our deliverance from sin and death, our forgiveness of sin, our adoption into God's family, and everything salvation implies, is something we already have and enjoy here and now.
- Timothy can share in suffering for the gospel and endure under every opposition, relying on God's assistance and power because God had already saved him.
- We don't have to shrink back in fear when God's message and messengers are opposed by the world because he has already saved us!

## **b. CALLED US TO A HOLY CALLING**

- But we are not just saved FROM something but also TO something.
  - We are not just saved FROM a life of sin but also TO a life of holiness.
  - God has 'called us to a holy calling.'
  - God, who is holy, has saved us to be holy.
  - 1 Cor. 1:2 "...called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..."
  - 1 Thess 4:7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.
- Salvation entails God calling us to himself, calling us out of the world, and calling us to a new way of living in close relationship with him.
  - We are already holy, because in Christ we have been made righteous.
  - And we are becoming holy, through the ongoing sanctifying work of the Spirit in the life of the believer, to conform us to the image of Christ.
  - This is how we are presently being saved.
- The gospel message presents salvation in three tenses—past, present, and future.
  - Past: we were saved.
  - Eph 2:8, "for by grace you have been saved..."; "God saved us..."
  - We have been justified. We have been adopted into the family of God, we are his children.
  - We are joint heirs with Christ.
- Present: we are being saved.
  - 1 Cor. 1:18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
  - Salvation is ongoing in the believer's life through the process of sanctification.
  - We are being made holy, we are growing in the grace of God. We are overcoming sin.
  - Through this work, we gain confidence and assurance that we will persevere to the end.

- Future: we will be saved.
- Salvation points us to that future glory we will experience.
- We will be glorified at the return of Christ.
- We will be forever in the presence of God and our Savior, we will be fully and finally delivered from the presence of sin and evil.
- 1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- We can praise God that he has saved us, is saving us, and will save us!

## 2. THE SOURCE OF OUR SALVATION

- Paul now writes how that salvation and calling to a holy life has come about.
- He states that both negatively and positively.

### a. NOT BECAUSE OF OUR WORKS

- Negatively he states, we are not saved and called because of our works.
- Salvation is in no way conditioned upon any good works we have done.
- God's purpose of election does not depend on human will or exertion (Romans 9:16).
- We are not saved by works (Eph. 2:9).
- No one is justified by the works of the law (Gal. 2:16).
- He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness..." (Titus 3:5).
- What are you trusting in for your salvation?
- Your good deeds? None of those will save you, you are not saved by your works.
- Don't get this twisted, if you do, the gospel will not be a motivator for godliness or a motivator to persevere in the face of opposition and suffering for Christ and his gospel.

### b. BECAUSE OF HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE

- Positively he states, God saved us and called us to a holy life "because of his own purpose and grace."

- The unequivocal declaration of Scripture is that it is God alone who saves by his grace alone.
  - He is the source of our salvation.
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- "His own purpose and grace", what does Paul mean?
  - It means that it is God who determined to save us.
  - Before we did any good works, before we were born, before time even began, God purposed to save for himself a people by grace alone in Christ Jesus.
  - The source of our salvation traces all the way back before time began.
  - God determined to elect for himself a people he would save through the giving of his Son, predestining them unto salvation and eternal life.
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- God's purpose of election is a mystery we cannot fathom or comprehend.
  - We do not know the secret thoughts or decisions in the mind and will of God.
  - This is a difficult doctrine but it is a biblical doctrine.
  - Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
  - It's grace not works!
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- We cannot be saved by any good works we had already done; because we had not done any good works until we were called by the grace of God.
  - We cannot be saved on the basis of some foreseen good works because good works are the fruit of our calling, not the root of our calling.
  - We cannot be saved by works or we would have grounds for boasting before God. We have none!
  - God has repeatedly expressed through His Word, that any human work cannot induce him to confer upon us his electing and converting grace.
  - We are saved by grace alone! God gets all the credit!
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- Ephesians 1:3-12 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be **holy and blameless before him**. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, **according to the purpose of his will**, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our

trespasses, **according to the riches of his grace**, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, **according to his purpose**, which he set forth in Christ 10 **as a plan for the fullness of time**, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined **according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will**, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

- 1689 LBCF Chapter 3.7 The doctrine of the high mystery of predestination is to be handled with special prudence and care so that those heeding the will of God revealed in his Word and obeying him may be assured of their eternal election by the certainty of their effectual calling. In this way this doctrine will give reasons for praise, reverence, and admiration of God, as well as humility, diligence and rich comfort to all who sincerely obey the gospel.
- This doctrine, though difficult, is immensely practical.
- To know that God sovereignly purposed to lavish his grace upon us before the foundation of the world, engenders deep humility and overflowing gratitude.
- It brings peace and assurance to the Christian life. God has left nothing to chance, our salvation and eternal security does not depend on ourselves but on God's own purpose and grace.
- We also can have confidence in our gospel message. Its source is traced back to the definitive purpose and plan of God before time even began.

### 3. THE SETTING OF OUR SALVATION

- The salvation God purposed before time was brought into time at Christ's first appearing.
- God's salvation is grounded firmly upon the historical work performed by Christ in time, though it was purposed before time.
- The grace purposed to be given was eternal and secret but the manifestation of that grace was historical and public.
- Christ's incarnation brought into time what God had already decreed and completed before time.
- His birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension is connected to that plan from all eternity.
- Christ is the center of the gospel. It's all about Jesus!
- And what has Christ done by his appearing and manifesting the eternal purpose of grace?

- He mentions two things:
  - Christ abolished death.
  - And Christ has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.
  - Why those two things?
  - We must remember Paul's aim in this passage. The gospel is to motivate Timothy to embrace suffering and to courageously take a stand for the gospel.
  - And here, at the end of his life, Paul has no fear of death.
  - He is ready for the glories of the world to come promised to him in Christ.
  - 2 Timothy 4:6-8 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.
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- Christ abolished death.
  - Death is what sin pays out.(Romans 6:23).
  - And what did Christ do? He abolished death.
  - Death's tyrannical reign has been shattered by Christ's triumph over the grave.
  - Now death is not presently eliminated from our everyday experience, but death no longer separates us from God.
  - The believer does not fear death because death is the pathway to glory!
  - Those who are in Christ will never taste eternal, spiritual death (Rev. 2:11).
  - Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?
  - Romans 8:38-39 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
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- Through the gospel, life and immortality have come to light.
  - The gospel reveals what Christ offers. He offers life and immortality.
  - The gospel has shone the spotlight on death's demise through Christ's conquest of death and the immortal life offered by Christ.

## CONCLUSION

- Why do we continually exhort you to know God's Word, to know the gospel, and continually rehearse the gospel?
  - Because the gospel contains all of the assurance you will need to live this life for the glory of God, no matter what comes your way.
  - The gospel prepares you and I for the very worst that can happen to us in this life.
  - But the gospel doesn't just prepare us for this life, it also prepares us for the glory of the life to come.
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- Don't be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.
  - Suffer for Christ and his gospel if need be, He is worth it all!
  - Faithfully proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, no matter the cost.
  - Remember, you have been saved and called to a holy life.
  - God has graciously provided all things for your salvation in Christ Jesus.
  - And in Christ you have true life in this world and immortality in the next.

## **APPLICATION AND REFLECTION**

In light of today's message....

- What did I learn about the gospel?
- How can I apply what I learned about the gospel to my life?
- With whom can I share the gospel this week?