

Sermon Notes

WORSHIP SERVICE - 8.20.2023

PART 24 - REMEMBER

I. INTRODUCTION

2 Timothy 2:8-13

8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! 10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. 11 The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

12 if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

II. THE PROBLEM OF FORGETFULNESS

- 8 Remember Jesus Christ,
- Why would Timothy need to remember the central most important thing about the gospel—Jesus Christ?

A PATTERN OF FORGETFULNESS

- Israel had a long history of forgetfulness.
- The Passover meal was established as an annual feast to remind God's people how he powerfully delivered them out of bondage in Egypt (Exodus 12:14).
- The book of Deuteronomy is filled with commands to not forget God and not to forget all of the glorious things God had done for them.
- Deut 8:11-14 "Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, 12 lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, 13 and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, 14 then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery,
- They were to give their fullest attention to not forgetting God, because their default position, as is ours, is to forget.
- How many only remember the Lord when there is a crisis or when things are going wrong? But when everything's fine, they forget God. They

don't pray, they don't seek after him.

- Prior to the conquest of Canaan, the Lord instructs Joshua to have each tribe take a stone from the river and erect a memorial from those stones. The memorial was to remind future generations of how the Lord brought them into the promised land, passing through the waters that the Lord had parted, so that they could take possession of the land He had promised them (Joshua 4).
- Towards the end of his life, Joshua exhorts the people to faithfulness by reminding them of all that God had done for them (Joshua 24).
- Judges 2:7-8, 10 And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the Lord had done for Israel. 8 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of 110 years. 10 And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.
- The cycle of Israel's apostasy we see in the book of Judges shows their ongoing forgetfulness of the Lord.
- Judges 8:24 And the people of Israel did not remember the Lord their God, who had delivered them from the hand of all their enemies on every side,
- Psalm 106 recounts the dreadful forgetfulness of God's people.
- Psalm 106:7 ...they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love,
- Psalm 106:13 But they soon forgot his works;
- Psalm 106:21 They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt,
- One of the most cited commands in Scripture is "remember the Lord" accompanied by commentary about how Israel did not remember the Lord.
- All of that emphasis is necessary because God's people tend to forget all of the wonderful things God has done on their behalf.
- Timothy must never forget Christ.
- And neither must we!

III. REMEMBER CHRIST

- Paul had already exhorted Timothy to not be ashamed of the testimony about Jesus, and reminded him of the glory of the gospel as fuel and motivation to suffer for the gospel by the power of God (1:8).
- Timothy was also to follow the pattern of the sound words, the gospel he received from Paul in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus (1:13).
- And Timothy was to be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus (2:1).
- He gave him three images to remember, the soldier, the athlete, and the farmer, to illustrate the dedication, discipline, and diligence that were required for faithful ministry to Christ Jesus.
- Everything centers around the person and work of Christ Jesus.
- Every resource Timothy needs to guard the good deposit, endure hardship, suffer for the gospel's sake, is found in Christ Jesus!
- Everything about the Christian life, everything about ministry and service is based on the person and work of Christ!
- That's why Paul writes, "*remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel...*"

- Now, it's his gospel not because he came up with it but because it was revealed to him personally by the risen Christ.

1. REMEMBER THAT HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD

- Everything hinges on the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- If Christ had not risen from the dead, we would all still be dead in our trespass and sin (1 Cor 15).
- But praise God Christ is risen from the dead!
- That is what Timothy is to remember!
- The resurrection reality is what encourages the apostle as he is awaiting execution in a Roman dungeon.
- Because Christ rose from the dead, Paul is confident in his future resurrection as Christ promised (1 Cor 15:51-53).
- The resurrection is proof of Christ's divinity—He is the Son of God!
- The resurrection validates the gospel message and demonstrates the gospel's power—it can raise the spiritually dead to life—a spiritual resurrection.
- If you are in Christ it is because you have also experienced his resurrection power!

2. REMEMBER THAT HE IS THE PROMISED MESSIAH

- “The offspring of David...” This statement is concerning the humanity of Christ in his incarnation.
- He is both divine as evidenced by his resurrection, and he is human as to his person. He is the promised descendent of David who would sit on David's throne (2 Sam 7:12ff).
- Luke 1:32-33 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”
- Acts 13:22-23 And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’ 23 Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.
- Romans 1:1-4 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,
- Jesus fulfilled the the Davidic Covenant, he is the culmination of God's redemptive plan of salvation.
- Timothy must remember Christ's humanity and divinity, the suffering he endured on his journey to the cross, his bloody and brutal death, and then his glorious resurrection from the dead.
- This continual remembering will enable Timothy to stand and suffer with Paul for the gospel.
- Christ's experience as we have already seen in Paul's letters to Timothy, is the model for all of us, suffering and death as the pathway to glory, immortality, and everlasting life.
- When we are tempted to avoid suffering for the gospel, we need to remember Jesus Christ!
- Remember that he is the fulfillment of everything that Scripture pointed to concerning God's promises of salvation. Remember he has risen from the dead! He lives! Keep on remembering this!

3. REMEMBER THE GOSPEL'S POWER

- Paul says, this is the reason he is suffering, it's because of Christ and his gospel.
- He preaches the gospel and suffers for it.
- His experience of suffering testifies to the reality of the gospel's power to enable him to stand and suffer for Christ.
- He is confident in the power of the gospel.
- 9b But the word of God is not bound!
- The word of God is unchained! Not even the most powerful empire on earth can stop the forward movement and advance of the gospel.
- Just as God himself cannot be chained, neither can his Word!

- That's why Paul can confidently assert, " Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."
- The unstoppable force that is the Word of God, the gospel of the risen Christ, means that it will mightily prevail in bringing salvation to God's elect.
- Paul knows that nothing can thwart God's plan of salvation.
- Timothy must continue to share in this work of preaching and proclaiming the gospel because God's Word cannot be stopped, even if Timothy is to suffer for it.
- The preaching of the gospel is the means by which the elect obtain salvation and the promised eternal glory.
- Paul's motive for enduring suffering and the present trial he finds himself in, is the well-being of God's people.
- He counts his own personal adversity and suffering as trivial if it means God's people are being served.
- Philippians 1:29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,
- It's a privilege to suffer for the sake of Christ. Do you see it that way?
- Have you ever thought about your personal suffering in the way that Paul thought about his suffering?
- Have you ever asked the Lord to use your suffering to promote the well-being and interests of your brothers and sisters in Christ?

- 2 Cor 4:16-18 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.
- He calls suffering for the gospel a light momentary affliction.
- The suffering is worth it all! Why? Glory awaits him on the other side!
- Remember God's Word is powerful, remember the gospel's power to save, remember that nothing can stop what God has decreed, not even powerful and wicked rulers and governments.

4. REMEMBER THE TRUSTWORTHY SAYING

- **Paul quotes what is believed to be a fragment of an early Christian hymn or poem.**
- 11 The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

12 if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

- The first pair of couplets, the first and second line, have to do with our allegiance to Christ in the midst of persecution and suffering.
- “If we died with him we will also live with him.”
- Enduring for the sake of Christ and his gospel is the pathway of victory in the Christian life, we will reign with him! Glory is assured!
- Christian victory and triumph is not a life of ease and comfort.
- Christian victory is the example in Christ’s experience, Paul’s experience, and the universal experience of much of the Church, suffering then glory!
- So the two lines are reminders for us to stand our ground, stand firm, endure, because we will experience the benefits of our life in Christ and we are assured that we will reign with Christ.

- The next pair, the third and fourth line, serve as a warning and a final promise.
- If we deny him, he will also deny us—that’s echoing what Jesus himself said.
- Matthew 10:32-33 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.
- This is about apostasy.
- “He will also deny us.” This concerns, as Hughes states in his commentary, “*the terror that will unfold in final judgment is a reciprocal, eternal, disownment.*”
- That is a sobering reality that many will experience on the Day of Judgment.

- 13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.
- The truth is that we have all been and will in the future be faithless at times. Our faith will waver.
- “He remains faithful” certainly cannot mean that if we turn away completely from Christ that he will not turn away from us, he has already said that a complete denial of him will result in complete disavowal of that person before the Father.
- Christ will be faithful to carry out the consequences of what he has warned us.
- God cannot deny himself—He does not act contrary to himself, contrary to his nature.

- But this is also good news for us in Christ.
- “He remains faithful.” This would have been a comfort to Timothy, who like all of us, probably wavered in his faith at times.
- God is always faithful! No man can ever say that, but God cannot be anything but faithful.
- In all of Israel’s forgetfulness, in all of their lack of remembering God’s goodness and work, God never forgot his covenant with his people.
- Thank God that in Christ, our faithfulness does not invalidate his ongoing faithfulness to us in Him.

- Remember Christ, remember his resurrection, remember his power that enables us to suffer for the gospel.
- Hang on to the gospel, keep on remembering it. The tomb is empty, the throne is occupied.
- A lofty vision of the person and work of Christ as revealed in his gospel will keep you in the battle, will embolden you in the day of trial, and will

help you to endure suffering and hardship for his sake.

- Don't let busyness, distractions, laziness or inattentiveness cause you to forget—Remember Jesus Christ!

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?