

Woodland Baptist Church
January 28, 2018 - Morning Worship
2 Timothy 2:8-13, Enduring in and through Christ

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Today we pick up in verse 8 of chapter in Paul's second letter to Timothy. Paul is in prison, most likely awaiting execution during the reign of the Roman Emperor, Nero, who was known to viciously persecute Christians. What a prize Nero must have thought he had acquired when he had Paul the Apostle in his jail cell. Little did Nero know, that Paul's arrest was a strategic move by God to spread the gospel into the imperial ranks.
- b) We must always remember that while we may not understand our current situation, that there is always, always divine purpose behind our sufferings and hardship. Paul would go to great efforts in this, his final letter to encourage the young pastor protege to press on and endure hardship in ministry.
- c) Paul had named some of his followers from Asia among those that had turned from supporting him and named one man that continued to be faithful, Onesiphorus.
- d) In the most recent passage we explored, Paul had encouraged Timothy by setting three examples before him of suffering, a soldier, an athlete and a farmer. Each one suffers somewhat uniquely and each one is rewarded accordingly, if they each maintain steadfastness in each discipline.
 - i) The soldier gets honored by the one that enlisted him.
 - ii) The Athlete wins an award if he plays by the rules and wins.
 - iii) The farmer, if he works hard and does well, get the first share of the crop.

(1) He tells Timothy to think over what he has said, and the the Lord would give him understanding.
- e) Now Paul plants in Timothy's mind the example that is the most important. He say's, "Remember Jesus Christ."

2) READ 2 Timothy 2:8-13

3) Verses 8-9 The Testimony of JESUS compels us to ENDURE

a) **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!**

i) Paul gives us the examples of a soldier, an athlete and a farmer and then places the ultimate superior example of encouragement before Timothy, "Remember Jesus Christ."

(1) That's interesting and it's interesting because of chapter 1:8-14 was all about who? Jesus!

(2) Paul expounds about Christ in chapter 1:8-14 and now just a handful of verse later, he re-defined the gospel again. Why? He include two terms that he did not use in the first passage.

b) **Risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel...**

(1) **Romans 1:3-4 - 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David[b] 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,**

ii) **Risen from the dead** - this will always be one of the most attacked and misunderstood doctrines of our Lord, much like the incarnation or some of the others, but it is a critical truth. Christ was raised from the dead. He died as human beings die. His human likeness (flesh) was susceptible to the curse of death. However, he was also the Son of God. He did not have an earthly father. He was born of the Holy Spirit through a Jewish virgin named Mary. So, after he was crucified, after he died, after he was buried, after three days...he rose from the dead.

(1) This doctrine of the resurrection is critical - in fact, Paul writes in **Romans 10:8-10**, ""The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that **God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.** ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

iii) Offspring of David...(Messiah, Anointed One)

(1) What does Paul mean by this?

(a) The prophecy that Paul is directing us to is 2 Samuel 7, when the prophet Nathan told David about the covenant God made with him.

(i) **2 Samuel 7 - 11** He would be the one that the prophet Nathan spoke of to King David (Solomon), ¹²When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your **offspring** after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. **Your throne shall be established forever.**" ¹⁷In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

(b) **Matthew 1:1 - The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.**

iv) **Preached in my gospel** - OT and NT unity, Jesus is the messiah prophecies in the Old Testament Scriptures His gospel that gospel.

c) **For which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal...**

i) He had spoke his imprisonment already -

(1) 1:8 - ⁸Therefore 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,

(2) 1:15-18 - he talks about Phygelus and Hermogenes were ashamed of him and current condition and how they abandoned him; how Onesiphorus was not ashamed and did not abandon him.

(a) This gospel had cost Paul tremendously:

- (i) Paul had a real close call on the Damascus Road with God. God changed him radically and on that day, Christ told him that he would show Paul what he must suffer.
- (ii) The Jews considered him a traitor, the Christians didn't trust him for a long time because of his past. He was almost killed numerous times by his own people and pagans; he had been put in jail multiple times...but yet, what did he do?

ii) **Criminal** - The word used here, criminal our language experts tell us is only use one other time in the gospel of Luke to describe the criminals that were crucified on the right and left of Christ. This term was reserved the harshest of hardened criminals - repeat offenders, murders, men that used brutality to accomplish their deeds. Paul was being treated rough, like he was the scourge of society.

d) But the word of God is not bound!

i) Paul knows the truth - he may be in jail, but gospel the truth is not bound, in fact the truth is unleashed and unstoppable. It may seem like its been doused, but not so.

(1) **Isaiah 55:10-11 - "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**

(2) **Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

ii) That's why Gideons do what they do - you get that Bible out there and God will use it. That's why we put out tracts, that's why we have VBS and AWANA and Wednesday night Bible study and student ministry and small groups and a website and Facebook and every other kinda of media; we believe the Word of God is powerful! We want to get it out there as much as

we can because we know that God will use it to call people to repentance and faith in Jesus!

e) **Verse 10 - Future Generations DEPEND on us for the TRUTH**

- i) **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.**
- ii) **Elect** - God's chosen people - **Deuteronomy 7:6** - 6 "For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.
 - (1) **John 3:16** - For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever shall believe in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. Key phrase - "believe in Him."
 - (2) **Romans 10:17** - ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
 - (3) **Ephesians 1:3-6** - 3 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.
 - (4) **Matthew 28:19-20** - 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

f) **That they may also obtain the salvation...with eternal glory...**

- i) Paul has a very healthy understanding of election. He knows that salvation is of the Lord, but he also knows that people must hear the gospel to believe and in order to hear the gospel, we have to preach and teach and the Father draws through the Word and the Spirit.
- ii) He sees his involvement in gospel ministry as critical for others to be saved.

4) CLOSE

- a) **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.**