

# A Father's Farewell

## 2nd Timothy

### A Faithful Saying About the Faithful God

#### Key idea:

Believers can be encouraged to be faithful, enduring even through suffering, by remembering the faithfulness of God.

#### Key text:

2 Timothy 2:8-13

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. <sup>11</sup> Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; <sup>12</sup> if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; <sup>13</sup> if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

#### Key points:

1. The Gospel is centered on Jesus Christ, the Risen Seed of David. This shows me three key things to encourage me to endure in the face of suffering:
  - a. Jesus Himself suffered to do God's will, dying on the cross at the hands of wicked men.
  - b. God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, showing that God is faithful to His people even through death itself!
  - c. Jesus is the Seed of David, thus showing God's faithfulness to David - even despite David's unfaithfulness.
2. Paul was chained like a criminal, suffering for his faithfulness to the Gospel. Yet, God's Word was not chained, and so Paul was willing to endure the suffering so that the message would continue to go forth calling people to salvation.
3. Paul encourages Timothy and other believers through a final 'faithful saying' that highlights the importance of present endurance, but gives strong encouragement regarding the faithfulness of God, even when we struggle.

## Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. Why does Paul encapsulate the Gospel by referring to "Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David"? What do I learn from this short phrase that helps me see Jesus as the fulfillment of the Gospel?
3. How does Jesus provide an example for me regarding suffering? How does David provide an example for me regarding suffering? How are these two different?
4. Am I surprised to see how often the New Testament refers to Jesus as the Seed or Son of David? Why does it do this so often?
5. When I think of the life of David - both his times of faith and faithfulness, and also his times of gross sin and failure - am I surprised to see how Jesus refers to Himself as the Root and Offspring of David in Revelation 22:16? What does this teach me about grace? About forgiveness? About responding to others who have both good and bad in their lives and legacy?
6. Why does Paul say that even though he is chained the word of God is not chained? How is that an encouragement to me today?
7. When I first read the faithful saying (vv11-13) how does it make me feel? Is my first response one of encouragement or one of warning and fear? Why is this my initial response?
8. How surprised am I to see that Paul says I have already died with Christ? Why is the truth that I have already died with Christ and His resurrection life is already at work in me important? How does this help me to endure in my struggle with suffering and sin?
9. How does the statement about disowning Christ and being disowned by Christ serve as a warning to me? Why is it included in this otherwise encouraging faithful saying?
10. What does the saying "Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny" teach me about the cumulative effects of my small choices? What does it teach me about responding to even small temptations to sin or refusing to suffer for Christ?
11. How does the faithful saying of vv11-13 reinforce the encapsulation of the Gospel in vv8-9? How is it parallel to God's fulfillment of His promises to both Jesus and David? How is this meant to encourage me when I fail?

12. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to pray for and call?

**Preview of Next Week: 2 Timothy 2:14-26**