

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

## I. Intro - Semper Fidelis; Adeste Fidelis

- A. Semper Fi, Adeste Fidelis, Hi-fidelity - 'faithful'
- B. Paul is calling Timothy to be faithful no matter the cost
- C. What can help us to be faithful? Who is truly faithful?

## II. Remember Jesus Christ

### A. Remember the Gospel - Jesus Christ

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my Gospel 2 Tim 2:8

- 1. Paul returns to the Gospel - our foundation!
- 2. Remember Jesus Christ
  - a. Remember - an imperative (command)
  - b. Jesus Christ - He is the focus of everything
  - c. The Gospel is the Good News of Jesus Christ!
  - d. Our focus must return to Jesus again and again

### B. Jesus Christ - The Risen Seed of David

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my Gospel 2 Tim 2:8

- 1. Jesus is Risen from the dead
  - a. Apart from the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus there is NO Gospel - it is ESSENTIAL
  - b. The main focus here is that though Jesus was crucified, the Father overruled and raised Him from the dead!
  - c. Jesus suffered to do God's will - and was raised from the dead!

- d. God was faithful to His Son - even through death itself!

## 2. Jesus is the Seed of David

- a. A reminder that God was faithful to keep His promises to David
  - b. This is a key NT theme

A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: Matthew 1:1

regarding his Son, **who as to his human nature was a descendant of David**,<sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by **his resurrection from the dead**: Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 1:3–4

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star. Revelation 22:16
  - c. The NT often reminds us that God had promised David that his Seed would reign forever and this was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
  - d. But David (and Israel) failed again and again!
  - e. But God was faithful to His covenant promises even though David was unfaithful!
  - f. NOTE: our culture wants to cancel the memory of people who did great things but also did terrible things - but God does not do this! He honors David, not glossing over his sin, but honoring his memory for the good he did do as well.
- ## 3. Jesus Christ, Risen from the dead, descended from David, is an encapsulation of God's faithfulness to His covenant promises and His people. It reminds us that no matter what may happen God is faithful! Endure, for God is faithful!

### III. The Unchained Word of God

#### A. Paul is chained like a criminal for the Gospel

This is my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. 2 Timothy 2:8–9

1. Paul is chained like a criminal because of his faithfulness to the Gospel.
2. Paul is suffering - the word again! - for the Gospel
3. Once again, this is meant to encourage Timothy (and us) to be willing to suffer for the Gospel too.

#### B. The unchained Word of God!

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. 2 Tim 2:8–10

1. Paul is chained - but God's Word is not chained!
2. They may lock Paul up, but they can not lock up the Word of God - it will go forth and accomplish the will of God!
3. This is why Paul endures everything - God's Word will go forth to call people to salvation!
4. The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still; His kingdom is forever! (Luther, *A Mighty Fortress*)
5. For the sake of the elect
  - a. This could refer to Paul setting an example for God's people - God will be faithful even if they suffer
  - b. I think the more likely idea is that Paul knows that there is a price for the Word of God to go forth - suffering is simply part of the price of mission.

- c. But no matter what they do to the messengers, the message will ring forth, and people will believe and embrace Christ as Savior and Lord!
  - d. The salvation that people are embracing comes with eternal glory - God will keep them even through death, and they will experience all that He has for His people!
6. Believers can be encouraged and endure in the face of suffering because we know that God's Word is going forth and God's Kingdom will survive, thrive, and grow until Jesus returns!

### IV. A Faithful Saying On the Faithfulness of God

#### A. A faithful (trustworthy) saying

Here is a trustworthy saying: 2 Timothy 2:11

1. Trustworthy - πιστός - same as 'faithful' in v13
2. This is the last of 5 of these 'faithful' sayings in the Pastoral Epistles (1 Timothy 1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2 Timothy 2:11; Titus 3:8)
3. These are sayings that seem to be known and that Paul wants to stress are worthy of full acceptance
4. This is the only one that is poetic in form

#### B. Looking at this final faithful saying

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. 2 Timothy 2:11–13

1. Four lines, each a conditional sentence (if... also)
2. Verbs in the 'if' (protasis) change tense - **aorist**, **present**, **future**, **present**

3. Verbs in the 2nd half (apodosis) are all **future** tense
4. Our **past & future** reality - died with Him, live w/ Him  
If we **died** with him, we **will** also **live** with him;
- This is not speaking about martyrs - it is past tense
  - It is sanctification/ baptismal language (Romans 6)  
Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into his death**? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore **buried with him through baptism into death** in order that, **just as Christ was raised from the dead** through the glory of the Father, **we too may live a new life...** <sup>8</sup> Now **if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.** Ro 6:3,4, 8
    - Same language - died with Christ, will live with Him
    - We have ALREADY died with Christ at our conversion, and we WILL be raised with Him at our resurrection
    - But the resurrection life is already breaking in on us now - "we too may live a new life"
  - This line reminds us what is true for every believer - we have died with Christ and now live with Him.
  - Yet Not I But Christ In me!!!
5. Our present and future reality - **endure** and **reign**  
<sup>12</sup> if we **endure**, we **will** also **reign** with him.
- Our present Christian life calls for endurance
  - This is the same word Paul used of himself in v10 - I endure all things for the sake of the elect
  - We can endure as we look to our eternal reward - we will reign with Him
  - Our actions now have eternal consequences, and the degree of enduring suffering now determines the degree of reward and eternal glory then.

6. The potential future - **mutual disowning**  
If we **disown** him, he **will** also **disown** us;
- Note both times 'disown' is **FUTURE**
  - This ultimately speaks of our response to Christ and His corresponding response as we stand before Him in eternity
  - But our response now determines our response then; our actions now form our eternal character  
"Sow a thought, reap an action;  
sow an action, reap a habit;  
sow a habit, reap a character;  
sow a character, reap a destiny." - disputed source
  - Thus this does serve as a warning to those who want to claim Christ without suffering, denying Him in daily conduct and before men, and thinking that on judgment day they will proudly claim Him.  
But whoever **disowns** me before men, I **will disown** him before my Father in heaven. Matthew 10:33
    - The human **disown** is in the aorist tense - it happened in this age, in this life, before others
    - Jesus' **will disown** is future at the judgment seat
    - This is a fearful warning, and it is meant to cause us to count the cost and endure suffering now
  - Does this mean that there is no hope if we fail?
7. The ultimate reality - the faithfulness of God!  
if we **are faithless**, he **will remain** faithful,  
for he cannot disown himself
- Note that this speaks of present unfaithfulness on our part
  - But here the saying breaks down - we may be unfaithful, but God will NEVER be unfaithful!
  - God is never unfaithful because it is IMPOSSIBLE for Him to deny Himself - He is the faithful God!

- d. This is why even though Peter disowned (the same word as in v12) Christ before men he was restored - and ultimately suffered martyrdom for Christ!
- e. God is faithful to His faithful Son Jesus - and also to His unfaithful servant David!
- f. Thanks be to God - our hope is not in our own unwavering faithfulness but rather in the unwavering faithfulness of God!

## V. Applying the Word

### A. A plea to embrace Christ now!

- 1. Do not put it off now thinking you will respond later
- 2. Every day we resist Christ we harden our resistance until we no longer want to embrace Him
- 3. This is not a threat - it is a recognition of reality
- 4. Do not harden yourself - hear the Spirit's call and respond today!

### B. Encouragement for wavering souls

- 1. There are a lot of challenging words in 2 Timothy!
- 2. We need to embrace the call to suffer; our daily decisions have lifelong and eternal results!
- 3. But I want to encourage you with the faithfulness of God!
- 4. You may feel weak and wavering - God is strong and consistent!
- 5. You may feel aware of areas of faithlessness - God is faithful!
- 6. Let the character of our God strengthen and encourage you today!

## C. The Table of the Faithful God

- 1. This Table reminds us of the faithfulness of God
- 2. We approach not because we have been faithful, but because He was, is, and always will be faithful!
- 3. Come and be strengthened!

## A Faithful Saying About the Faithful God

2 Timothy 2:8-13

March 13, 2022

Communion

Philippians 3:10-11

Teaching keywords: Character of God; heaven, hell, and eternity; Christian life; suffering; endurance

May you know Christ and the power of his resurrection, the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, strengthened as you look forward to the resurrection from the dead and eternal glory. (Based on Philippians 3:10-11)

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. 2 Timothy 2:8-13