Saturday, May 3, 2025

# Title: Remember Jesus Christ

Text: II Timothy 2: 8-9

## Background/Review

- II Timothy is written by Paul from prison to encourage a young man to persevere in his faith, to protect sound doctrine, and to passionately proclaim the Gospel
- The book is built around two primary exhortations. 1. Be strengthened from II Timothy 2:1 and 2. Preach the Word from II Timothy 4:2
- Last week we looked at II Timothy 2:1-7 "Be strengthened" - This is not a pull yourself up by your bootstraps form of self-made self-righteous Christianity but a humble, dependent, confident in God alone Christianity. A Christianity that recognizes the complete inability of our sinful depraved flesh, a Christianity that is overwhelmed with thanksgiving for the Gospel that according to II Timothy 1:9 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. A Christianity that says because I am a sinner saved by grace I will run to and drink deeply of God's normal means of grace. Last week we were led to the oasis of God's means of grace: Reading the Word, Constant in Prayer, faithful participation in a church body, and meaningful fellowship with other believers. These are God's ordinary, normal means of grace, which means they are God's gifts to believers through which we are strengthened. Just as we are saved by grace alone we are strengthened by grace alone.
- After exhorting Timothy to be strengthened by God's marvelous grace, Paul continues the New Testament teaching that our identity drives our activity. What we believe about who God is and who we are determines how we think and how we act. In other words we do what we do and say what we say because we think what we think, we think what we think because we believe what we believe about God, about His Word, and about our ourselves. The identity of those who are strengthened by grace will result in, will drive the activity of discipleship and mentoring. Look at verse 2 "And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." As Pastor Randy said last week this grace driven activity of discipleship does not begin with looking for someone



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who you can teach, who you can disciple. It begins with being a disciple, with being teachable, with putting yourself under authority, or as II Timothy 2:2 says, listening in the presence of witnesses. People who have been strengthened by grace are people who prioritize being mentored and mentoring others. As we will see as we continue through II Timothy 2, grace and Christian discipleship are inseparable. Without grace neither the mentor or the one being mentored will ever live up to expectations because both are sinners, However, people who are strengthened by grace enter into unconditional relationships because it is not be strengthened by the grace in your pastor or be strengthened by the grace in your mentor, or be strengthened by the grace found in your friends and family, but be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Participating in the grace fueled activity of discipleship is recognizing that God uses others in your life as vehicles of his grace and God uses you as a vehicle of grace into the lives of others. This lifestyle of being discipled and discipling others requires making yourself vulnerable to heartache and disappointment because the work of discipleship hurts when the disciples turn away (1:15 all have turned away, two specific names which means Paul knew them personally). We must remember that it is not our activity's results that drive us, it is our identity as those strengthened by grace that drives us. If you don't want to be hurt or disappointed then just withdraw and hide behind the four walls of your home. It will be safer, however, allowing the fear of disappointment and rejection to be an excuse for ignoring the biblical command to be discipled and to disciple others is rooted in the anti-Gospel of self reliance, self-sufficiency, and self-righteousness. All of which is rooted in the self-centered pride of I don't need anyone else and they don't need me. Yes, the vulnerability required of being committed to a church family where you are being discipled and you are discipling others will result in disappointment and hurt. This is why Paul transitions in verse 3 to the idea that our identity as one strengthened by grace will result in the activity of suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ with a singular focus on your God given mission. In verses 5-6 he says that the identity of being one strengthened by the grace of God will result in the activity of a believer that resembles a disciplined athlete pursuing the goal or that resembles the activity of a hard working farmer who plants and waters because he is looking forward to the harvest.

- After using the illustrations of a soldier, athlete, and farmer to describe to Timothy what the life of a grace strengthened believer should look like, Paul commands Timothy and through the Holy Spirit we are commanded to stop and think about it. Vs. 7 "Think over what I say" We are to ask God for understanding on how he could apply these examples to his own life. We are commanded to take time to ponder, to



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meditate, and to prayerfully apply these truths to our lives. I hope this week you have taken time be strengthened by drinking deeply of God's normal means of grace. I hope this week that as you have been strengthened you have meditated on your gospel of grace calling to actively participate in God's mission through a life of grace dependent discipleship.

- As you meditated on these examples of mission driven, focused, disciplined, hard working soldiers, athletes, and farmers, I wonder if any of you had some of the same thoughts cross your mind as crossed mine. I wonder if some of these same thoughts crossed Timothy's mind. Based on what Paul addresses next I believe some of these thoughts crossed his mind. You see what crossed my mind is that something that soldiers, athletes, and farmers have in common besides being mission driven, focused, hard working people is exhaustion and disappointment. Paul does point us to the joys that make the hard work worth it, the soldier's joy in receiving commendation from his commander, the athlete's joy in receiving the victor's crown, or the farmer's joy in receiving the first-fruits of the harvest. But if you have ever been a soldier, an athlete, or a farmer you know that for many of them, their experience is not joy but a constant fear of failure. Wars are lost, races aren't completed, and crops fail. And perhaps in your own life part of why you resist being all-in is because rather than being encouraged and motivated by the idea of being a soldier or an athlete or a farmer you are simply tired of lost battles and failed crops. I think Paul realized there would be some who would feel this way. There are some for whom failed expectation after failed expectation has resulted in a depth of weariness and numbness that no motivational message can reach. For those of us who are weary and heavy laden let's look at Verse 8, "Remember Jesus Christ"

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## Introduction

- One of my favorite things to do in Round Valley, simply because of the way people respond, is when someone from here asks me where I grew up, telling them I grew up in Sanders. The look of shock on their face is always hilarious. Sanders is a very small town about 90 miles north of here that is completely surrounded by Navajo Reservation. When I was growing up because liquor sales were illegal on the reservation but our town was private land we had one gas station, one movie rental store, and three liquor stores. The reason we lived in Sanders was because we went there as missionary church planters and regardless to say, we were outsiders. That meant there were many times when me or my brothers would feel very lonely and I remember on more than one occasion my dad saying, remember the friends you made at camp. That was a way for us to remember that we were not alone and



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helped us to endure in a season of loneliness. In this passage, Paul is recognizing that Timothy as a young leader that he is exhorting to "be strengthened" to endure hardness is going through a season of loneliness so what does Paul tell him to do. He says, Remember Jesus Christ. The word remember is an imperative, it is a command. This is not an option for Christians. It is a necessity for our faith. Heb. 12:2 says to "fix our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." It continues by saying "Consider Him" Our faith in Christ, our growth in Christlikeness, our endurance in suffering requires actively considering, thinking about, remembering Jesus. The word "Remember" in verse 8 is in the active voice which means to "continue to remember" or "Keep on remembering." This is why spending time in the Word is such a gift of grace, not because we find a new rule for the day, but because when we spend time in the Word we remember Jesus. This is why spending time in prayer is such a gift of grace, because in prayer we remember Jesus. This is why participating in church and fellowship with believers in such a gift of grace because it helps us to remember Jesus. Let's look back and read all of verse 8, "Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel." Remembering Jesus in this text specifically means remembering the Power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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## Sermon Body

- Remember that the Power of the Gospel is Rooted in the Resurrection
  - Because the Resurrection Proved his Deity - Romans 1:3-4 says that Jesus was "declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead." The resurrection was the supreme demonstration and conclusive evidence that Jesus is God. This truth is of primary importance to remember not just on Easter but we need to be constantly reminded of the resurrection power of Jesus. I Corinthians 15:1-4 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures…In fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." Remembering the resurrection of Jesus gives hope to farmers with failed crops because he didn't fail. The resurrection of Christ as the first fruits gives confidence that there will absolutely be a full harvest of those



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whom God has raised from the dead. God is the author and source of life. Only God can bring dead people to life. Remembering the power of the Gospel rooted in the resurrection is remembering that just as God raised Jesus from the dead, he is still giving life to dead people. You may have poured out your soul in prayer to God for someone who is lost, you may have spent hours in a feeble attempt to share the gospel and you may feel that the battle has been lost because of what appears to be hopeless deadness of soul. Remember the resurrection. Remember Ephesians 2 that we were dead in our trespasses and sins…but God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead in our trespasses and sins he made us alive together with Christ." Because salvation is a work of God there is no hopeless cause for the grace strengthened farmer. We sow and we water but God alone gives the increase. Remember the power of the Gospel is rooted in the resurrection. Not only does this give hope to those who sow the seeds of the Gospel but it gives hope to believers as we go to war every day with the sin in our lives. You may be exhausted, overwhelmed, and discouraged in your battle with sin. The race may feel like it's never going to end and it's a struggle to just put one foot in front of the other. Remember the resurrection. Romans 6, "Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life…Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." It's worth to keep fighting the battle, It's worth it to keep running the race because of the resurrection power of the Gospel. Remember Jesus Christ.

- Because the Resurrection Proved his redeeming work was accomplished - Remembering the power of the Gospel is remembering that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was proof that Jesus finished the work that he came to do. His resurrection vindicated him, confirming that his sacrificial atoning death paid the penalty for our sin and broke the power of the curse of sin and death. Romans 4:24 says that righteousness is given to those "who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification." The resurrection proved that Jesus had done everything necessary to make righteous those who put their faith in him. Remembering the power of the cross is remembering that your identity has been changed. If you have put your faith in Jesus, you are no longer under the law of guilt and shame but are under grace. You don't need to nor could you make sacrifice for your own



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sin. Remembering the Power of the Gospel rooted in the resurrection means there is no more sacrifice for sin because Christ was the final Sacrifice and he rose victorious over death and the grave. John 14:19 Jesus said Because I live, you will live. What greater motivation for enduring suffering, running the race, and sowing the seed can their be than living for the One who conquered death and did it for us. Remember Jesus Christ

- Remember that the Power of the Gospel is Revealed in the Incarnate King
  - Revealed in his Humanity - the phrase "the offspring of David" is reminding us of the incarnation of Christ, that God became flesh. Remembering the power of the gospel means knowing that Jesus can strengthen us because he can sympathize with us. Remembering Jesus reminds us that we have not a high priest who cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities but was tempted in every way like we are without sin. Remembering Jesus means knowing that we have a Savior who knows what it is like to be so tired that he can sleep through a storm. Remembering Jesus means that we have a Savior who knows what it is like to be hungry, to weep, to be tempted, and to be betrayed. When we are strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, we are being strengthened by one who knows exactly what we need. Remember Jesus Christ.
  - Revealed in his Royalty - Remembering the power of the Gospel means knowing that Christ is the King. The angel promised Mary that her son Jesus, "will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end." Remember, Christ is King. He reigns with all authority and all power to fulfill his authority. Remember Jesus is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Remember that yes there are enemies who hate the name of Christ and Revelation 17:14 says "they will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful." No matter how dark and hopeless it may appear in the midst of your battle, Revelation 19 tells us that one day the clouds are going to break and our King Jesus will come riding in on a white horse. "From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. Remember Jesus Christ



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- Remember that the Power of the Gospel is Reigning over our suffering

  - The Power of the Gospel reigns over our limitations. Paul was literally in a confined by chains in a prison. Yes, his suffering was in service to the Gospel and faithfulness to the Gospel may result in physical persecution. However, Paul's primary purpose was not to prepare us for prison but to teach that even his limitations were not bigger than God but were actually part of God's plan and thus to show that God is bigger than our suffering. Our limited circumstances do not limit the Gospel but instead are used by God to showcase the unlimited power of the Gospel. Your circumstances, your limitations, may not be a prison cell but all of us face frustrating limitations. Your prison may not have walls but can feel just as confining. Perhaps your prison cell is physical weakness or an ongoing struggle with longterm illness. Perhaps your chains are family relationships that drain you physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Perhaps your prison is guilt over sin and failures in your past. Perhaps you view your limitation as a lack of natural talent, or education, or finances. Let me remind you that God is bigger than any prison cell and his grace can break any chain. God is not limited by any of our limitations. The Power of the Gospel reigns over our suffering. So as you sit in whatever prison cell your circumstances have put you, Remember Jesus Christ.

  - The Power of the Gospel reigns through the unlimited Word. Unlike us, the Word of God is not bound! God's Purposes & Plans are not limited by my circumstances because God's power is not based in my circumstances: It is not my wealth or lack thereof that accomplishes God's purposes, It is not my education or lack thereof that accomplishes God's purposes, It is not my skills, or talents or abilities. God accomplishes his purposes and plans through the power of the Word. Heb. 4:12 The word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." God works through His Word! It is through the Word that God gives life to dead people, God opens blind eyes, and God justifies sinners. It is through the Word that God grows us in Christlikeness, God strengthens us to endure suffering, and gives grace to finish the race. It is through the Unchained Word that God defeats all His enemies. Remembering the Power of the Gospel reigns through the unlimited Word reminds us to lift our eyes off of our limited circumstances and instead find hope, confidence, and purpose in the sovereign unlimited power of the Word of God. Remember Jesus Christ.



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Conclusion:

- How do we know if we are forgetting Jesus? How do we know that instead of viewing the Power of the Gospel as bigger our suffering, we are viewing our life circumstances as bigger than the power of the Gospel. It is when we start to say things like, once I get through this season then I will commit to the Word. Once I get through this stage with the kids then I will spend time in prayer. Once I get through this busy season at work then I will commit to fellowship with other believers. Once I get to retirement then I'll commit to discipling others. It is as if we view the power of the Word as bound by our circumstances. In John MacArthur's commentary on this passage he says "The power of God's Word has never been dependent on Man's protection or subject to man's restriction. The word of God is not and cannot be imprisoned." Then he tells the story of the early persecuted church in Rome that for a period of nearly 300 years served as a meeting and burial place for as many as four million Christians. Their circumstances were limited and perhaps they felt trapped as they read Scripture by candlelight and knelt to prayer in a dark cave. But they remembered Jesus, a common inscription found written on the walls of the catacombs, "The Word of God is not bound." Rather than waiting for your circumstances to change, rather than waiting to get out of prison cell, right now in whatever limitations God has given you choose to be saturated by the Word and proclaim the Word. When you realize your have forgotten the Power of the Gospel, dRemember Jesus. When the soldier is tempted to ring the bell, Remember Jesus; when the athlete is tempted to quit the race, Remember Jesus; When the farmer is tempted to stop the work of sowing and harvesting Remember Jesus. When you are tempted to focus on your limitations and doubt God's ability to use you in your figurative prison cell of failures, finances, or family, Remember Jesus. It's all about Christ and not about us. Remember Jesus.



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