

gives the help and hope for Christian encouragement and Christian endurance to the end! Look at the Captain of our salvation and see how He has triumphed, and how He lives to enable His people to triumph till the end. The risen Saviour enables His people by His Word and Spirit to persevere to the end. If we deny Him, there is no hope for us, but if we stay with Him, and even if we falter and fail sometimes in the way, yet He [Christ Jesus] remains faithful, and He cannot deny Himself. Christian endurance in Gods ways and service is not only called for but truly possible, remembering Jesus Christ and ever looking to and depending on Him as risen exalted Saviour of sinners. So Peter writes too in I Peter 1:3-5, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively [living] hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

If you take your eyes and focus off Jesus Christ the risen Saviour gone before us, who then will endure to the end? No one! But looking to this Jesus, and ever leaning on Him, no one need be discouraged even in the hardest of times! Jesus resurrection declares and proclaims that Christ will uphold His people and ever supply their needs according to His riches in glory. You cant fail remembering Him, but you only always will fail forgetting Him as your one hope, and all in all. If you are in the Christian faith and enduring in it, as time moves on, you dont become less dependent on Christ, but more and more dependent. Do you see increasing need for repentance and grace and divine help in your life every step of the way? The way to endure is when we are weak in ourselves looking to Christ, then we are strong. Are you enduring in Christian truth and in thankful Christian holiness and godly service ever looking to the risen living Saviour for your guidance and strength?

Both for the purpose of Christian encouragement and Christian endurance Paul writes in our text to Timothy long ago, Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel. There are still more reasons Paul said this so listen again next week at the same time for further gospel truth from this glorious gospel text, II Timothy 2:8! This is a verse so good to remember! Amen.

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**BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST**

*Radio Ministry of the FREE REFORMED CHURCHES of North America*

*Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)*



**REMEMBER [1]**

Do you know what is reported to be the most common and popular question after a church service? The most frequently asked question after a church service is, How did you like it? In reflecting on that, we have to say, that is not really a right question or response to a church service. Rather, the real question needs to be and should be, Was it truth that was spoken? Was the Bible opened and proclaimed and applied? That is the real heart of the matter! And for Gods people, for the Christian church, when the Word of the Lord is preached, and His Word taught and declared as it is written, then you like it too, for then both God is honoured and you also get something out of it! When Gods Word is proclaimed and applied, that has impact and effect by Gods sovereign good pleasure. The Lord takes care that His Word does not return to Him void.

We are considering today Gods Word in II Timothy 2:8. There Paul writes to Timothy, Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel. Here the Apostle Paul is calling Timothy to remember the heart of the gospel as revealed in the once crucified but now risen and ever living Saviour. Jesus Christ is the triumphant resurrected Saviour of sinners, and mentioning Him being from the seed of David both recalls Jesus is the long promised Saviour of God and He is the Great Son of David, in other words, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Paul tells Timothy to remember these glorious truths about Jesus Christ. Why does he say, Remember this, and what does he mean with remembering? Well, Timothy needs to remember Jesus Christ as the resurrected Saviour because we can so soon and so easily and repeatedly forget! How often in the Old Testament didnt God instruct His people to remember truths and events from the past, but how often dont we read too that they forgot, and they would forget. Are people any different today? An honest answer is, No, we forget all too often even the most basic and wonderful truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The call to remember is a key word and key calling. With Remember, Paul also doesnt just mean here simply, Timothy, keep it in your memory that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead, much like we are to keep in our memory certain pin numbers or passwords, etc. No, Paul means, Keep this always in your mind and heart, Timothy. Let this be front and center in your view, and in your mindset, and not just as an abstract truth, but as a gospel

truth you ever depend on and treasure. Let this great gospel truth be what impacts you and guides you and motivates and strengthens you in every step of the Christian walk and life, also for the Christian ministry. Be ever looking to and drawing from the Saviour Who was crucified, yes, but also arose again from the dead. Be always trusting Him, always depending on Him, always calling to Him, always expecting all from Him! That is Paul's point with Remember. Remember who Jesus Christ is and what He has all accomplished as crucified and risen Saviour of sinners. In other words, Don't take your eyes off Him, but always be following after Him, Jesus Christ the Lord! We serve a living, almighty and ever present, always giving, gracious and glorious, compassionate, royal and rich, understanding, caring Saviour! It is in the context of giving Timothy all kinds of exhortations and responsibilities also in the Christian ministry that Paul writes this: Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel.

What I will now further pursue with you is looking at II Timothy 2:8 in the light of the rest of the chapter. What Paul says here is really a powerful, gracious gospel word for Timothy then and for God's people today. Paul says, as more literally translated, Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel (ESV) Paul calls for that because he would be so supportive and helpful to Timothy, so encouraging to him, and such an influence for good in his life. The best way to be an influence for good in another's person's life is to point them to Jesus Christ as the crucified and risen Saviour of sinners in Whom and from Whom and through Whom all blessings flow! Remembering Jesus Christ as the resurrected Saviour is our theme, and we will think about how Paul really meant this to function in Timothy's life and ministry. All along I will ask you, Is this how it functions in your life and mine as well?

For one, notice surely Paul meant this to be as Christian encouragement to Timothy. Remember Jesus Christ as the resurrected Saviour for Christian encouragement! Here I hardly have to expand, do I, on how the fact of Jesus resurrection serves for encouragement? Jesus resurrection declares victory over sin, Satan, death, and hell, and it makes clear an open grave and an open heaven, a poured out Holy Spirit and the almighty power and presence of God always there for us and with us, for Jesus sake! Bring any problem, spiritual and physical, and in relation to this life and the next, and doesn't Jesus resurrection from the dead give real hope regardless of the problem, a way out, deliverance from despair, and real encouragement to go on, whatever the need might be? Put the tidings of Jesus the Saviour and His empty tomb beside whatever struggle and trouble, sorrow and trial you may have, and is there not light to be found in your darkness, hope in your need, deliverance in your bondage? Paul would remind Timothy concerning Who the gospel is about and what Jesus Christ has accomplished as crucified and

risen Saviour and what He is about as the ever living and triumphant Saviour, and calling Timothy to remember these things, timid Timothy, easily discouraged, not so confident Timothy, Paul says, Remember Jesus Christ as resurrected Saviour for Christian encouragement in the gospel way.

Dear friend, do you remember and will you remember Jesus Christ as risen indeed, for Christian encouragement too in gospel ways? Jesus arose and you are invited to bring your sin problems, your heart needs, your situation struggles and sorrows, your hardships and cares to Him, and see if help is not to be found with Him! If the psalmist of Psalm 62:8 could say already in his day, Trust in Him at all times, ye people; pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge for us, how much more can and may that be declared in view of Jesus Christ, the risen exalted Saviour, now and forevermore? One commentator wrote: Memory of Jesus resurrection engenders a perpetual Easter season in the lives of God's children. [It invites spiritual resurrection and revival and renewal] and it instills hope of a glorious bodily resurrection for all who believe [indeed], eternal Easter! If you want encouragement in God's ways and life's journey, remember Jesus Christ as the risen Saviour as Paul calls for that in II Timothy 2:8. If you won't remember this Saviour, and you won't look to Him and rely on Him time and again, what encouragement can you really have for this life and in the face of death and eternity?

Do you see how key is our text not only in view of Christian encouragement but notice next in view of Christian endurance too? When Paul writes II Timothy, he is in prison, in some dungeon in Rome. He is writing in the days of Emperor Nero, a ruthless man, not one showing favors to Christians at all. The Christian church was young still, and besides persecution from Rome there was the constant oppression and opposition of the Jews too. The devil was scheming and plotting that the Christians be put down and out then as he does also still today. There are the struggles of the sinful flesh too and the luring attractions of the world, and the false teachings so prevalent already then in Timothy's times and even more so today in the perilous times we live. There can be so much against the gospel cause and you and I living in the gospel way, so Paul also says to Timothy, Remember, that is, always keep in view and as your trust and hope Jesus Christ, the risen royal Saviour of sinners, and so endure to the end. Isn't this what so kept Paul himself going? He begins II Timothy 1:1 stating, Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus. Paul states this faithful saying too in our text chapter, If we be dead with Him [in faith], we shall also live with Him; if we suffer [and endure], we shall also reign with Him.

In II Timothy 2 Paul calls Timothy to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and so to serve as a good soldier for Christ, and as a strenuous athlete going for the prize, like the hard working farmer looking for a harvest, and to endure hardships all along the way, but how so? Well, with verse 8 he