

Title: The Gospel's Security
Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:11 and 12
Series: The Pastoral Epistles

1. Introduction:

a. Last week we spent time studying the **eternal** nature of **God's holy calling**, which is present in the **Gospel of Jesus Christ**.

i. We noted that:

1. Salvation is of God therefore, He has every right to be called **God our savior**.

a. God is the initiator of salvation.

2. Because he is our **savior**, He effectually **calls** us to Himself. God ensures that those whom He has elected unto himself will come to the Son.

3. This **calling is a holy calling** and meant to produce separation from the world. The called will turn their backs to the world and their eyes unto Jesus. The will, for the first time, loves God.

4. This **holy calling is not based upon our works**. Not one of us deserves to be forgiven for our crimes against the majesty and holiness of God. Nothing we can do, nothing we can say, or nothing we can think can ever make us right before God.

Salvation has to be His gift to those whom He has effectually **called**.

5. This **calling** is based upon **His purpose and grace**.

- a. It is God that determines who are His. His choosing is based upon His own secret counsel.
- 6. Our election and calling is **given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.**
 - a. God has loved His own with everlasting love. He has predestined them unto salvation. Christ's death on the cross was not a reaction to sin but God's eternal plan for sin.
- 7. This eternal salvation was **manifested** in time. It was **manifested through the appearance of our Savior, Christ Jesus.**
 - a. The eternal plan of salvation came into fruition when Christ enters human time and becomes one of us. He comes as the sin-bearer. He comes as the perfect sacrifice. He comes as the only savior.
 - i. He comes proclaiming the good news; the gospel of our salvation.
- 8. It was through this **manifestation of Jesus** that:
 - a. **Death was abolished:** The Father allowed Christ to taste death and judgment for those he had determined to save.
 - i. This is the Doctrine of Penal Substitution.
 - ii. Sin is so severe that someone had to be penalized. God's judgment

for sin had to be carried out.

Christ is substituted in our stead.

b. **Life is given:** through his death. Jesus reverses the curse of Genesis. His obedience brings life, and that life is eternal.

c. **Immortality is brought to light:**

i. Through His resurrection

1. Because we are identified with His death, we will live again through His resurrection.

ii. Through His promises

1. By these promises, Christ assures the believers of their salvation.

b. Today, we are going to look at the gospel's security. We, who have been saved, are confident in our sufferings for the gospel. We are able to bear suffering for the sake of proclaiming God's good news to the unrepentant world. Ultimately, we know that our God is faithful to walk with us in this world. He will never leave us or forsake us. We also know that after our pilgrimage, our Lord will be faithful to bring us into His eternal presence. In His presence, all will be made right.

i. **Revelation 21:3-5** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (4) He

will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” (5) And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

1. In heaven, we are promised an existence with no more tears, death, mourning, or pain.
2. In heaven, all the suffering of this present world will pass away.
3. In heaven, the one on the throne (sovereign) makes all things new.
4. God Himself informs us that these promises are reliable and true. Therefore, we are sure that our suffering is only momentary.
5. The gospel is our security.

2. Verse 11: Appointed to Service: (the gospel) for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher,

a. Reflecting on the glories and blessings expressed in the gospel, that salvation is possible in Jesus Christ, Paul makes it clear he had been **appointed** to gospel proclamation. This word, **appointed**, speaks of God acting sovereignly in putting Paul into the ministry.

i. It is right for us to consider that each Christian has been **appointed** by God to serve the body.

1. **1 Corinthians 12:18** But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

2. Our appointment is meant to bring glory to God by our serving His church with biblical love. We bring glory to God by living and proclaiming the Gospel.
 - a. We must remember, we have been placed in the body of Christ!
 - b. **Preacher** (herald): We all know that a herald is the person that proclaims the message of a king to the people. This is a beautiful illustration for those that proclaim the good news of the gospel. We bring the good news of the King of Kings to a people far and distant because of sin.
 - i. Paul is reminding Timothy that God had **appointed** him to the gospel proclamation. Therefore, Timothy is to be a herald. Those that are **appointed** to serve God are **appointed** by commission and not by human will. Brothers and Sisters, it is essential that we understand this very truth: we, too, have been **appointed** to gospel **preaching**; gospel heralding by the God's commissioning.
 1. Our commissioning is found in **Matthew 28:18-19** And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (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
 - a. Our commissioning is based on the authority of Christ who has all authority given to Him.

- b. We are sent forward on His mission.
- c. We are to make disciples? This necessarily requires our gospel proclamation.
- d. Jesus spoke this to the disciples. They were to go and replicate themselves through gospel preaching. Beloved, this has been the pattern for disciple-making for the last two thousand years. Let us consider that the great commission will not cease until the purpose of God in salvation is fulfilled.
 - i. **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
 - e. Until this is accomplished, the appointed heralds must continue to preach. Our gospel mission is not complete.
- c. **Apostle:** An apostle is one who has been divinely sent, divinely equipped, and divinely empowered. These were the few men in scripture that were sent directly to man from God. This office is no longer available to the church because it was a foundational office. We read that in order to be an apostle you had to have certain qualifications:
 - i. **Acts 1:21-22** So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord

Jesus went in and out among us, (22) beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.”

- d. **Teacher:** A teacher is one whose function is to indoctrinate others; he explains the truth in an understandable manner so that others may respond by faith and obedience.
 - e. We can never be **apostles**, some of us are called to be **teachers**, however all of us are called to be **heralds**.
3. Verse 12: Paul proclaims our King’s message in full Gospel Security: which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.
- a. The reason for Paul’s **suffering as he did** was that God had **appointed** him to be a minister. His faithfulness to the call had made this suffering a reality. Because of the fulfilment of his assignment as a herald of Christ’s gospel, he suffered in a terrible Roman prison, a gloomy underground dungeon with a hole in the ceiling for light and air, with the prospect of execution as a criminal!
 - i. It is the apostle Paul that tells us in **2 Timothy 3:12** Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,
 - ii. **2 Corinthians 4:1, 7-10, and 16-17** Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart...(7) But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power

belongs to God and not to us. (8) We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; (9) persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; (10) always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies....(16) So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. (17) For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

b. Because of this, Paul's suffering was not a cause for **shame**.

i. Paul was not **ashamed**, and neither should Timothy be ashamed. Throughout his sufferings, Paul understood that God's grace was sufficient for him.

ii. Brothers and sisters, there is nothing shameful about suffering for the sake of the cross.

1. There is an undeniable blessing in being identified with Jesus Christ.

2. To work with Him, preach with Him, and suffer with Him is an honor.

a. **Mark 16:19-20** So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. (20) And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and

confirmed the message by
accompanying signs.

c. The reason for Paul not being ashamed is that he knew in **whom he had believed.**

- i. Paul was well acquainted with the goodness, mercy, and power of Christ; and knew that having confidence in God was not in vain.
- ii. He was not trusting in the truths that he knew about God but he was trusting in the sovereign God Himself. God was not a mere head knowledge to Paul but He was the living God of all eternity.

1. He was the God who had saved him. The God to whom he joyfully owed all.

d. Paul was **convinced** that God was **able to guard until that day what had been entrusted by God to him.**

- i. Paul's testimony here is that he is committed to God and His gospel. God had furnished Paul with sufficient proof of His willingness to save a people. We cannot ask for more proof than the appearance of the divine Son.

1. The same God that has loved us with an everlasting love, predestined us to be his, placed a holy calling on our lives, called us by His own sovereign purpose and grace, and this before the ages began, has demonstrated Himself to be the only God that is trustworthy. He has sent His Son! Only in Christ is there salvation for sins.

- e. **Guard:** the word guard is a military term used of a soldier on watch, who was accountable with his own life to protect that which was entrusted to his care. Paul is fully convinced that God can and does guard his complete salvation. As I stand before you all, this is my confidence. I pray that it be yours as well.
- i. Do you see the security of the believer? God guards us and preserves us until that day.
 1. Paul committed himself to God. He was following the example of Jesus at the cross. We read in **Luke 23:46** Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.
 - a. We too must commit our spirit into the hands of God. Only in His hands are we secure!
 2. Brother and sisters, as we suffer for gospel fidelity, we keep our eyes on God. We are secure in Him. We read in **1 Peter 4:19** Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.
- f. **until that day:**
- i. Speaks about the day of the resurrection of the dead, when both soul and body will be glorified with Jesus. It speaks about the day of judgment, when the crown of righteousness will be received from his hand.
 1. **2 Timothy 4:8** Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which

the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

- ii. In the great resurrection day, we shall be rewarded for gospel fidelity. Our biggest reward should be in pleasing the Father as we take the Great Commission seriously. We please the Father when we proclaim the Son's advent, life, work, atonement, and resurrection. We please God when we are bold to proclaim the gospel.

4. Benediction:

- a. **1 Corinthians 2:2** For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Public Reading of the Word
1 Corinthians 2:1-5