

“Our Eternal Reward”  
2 Timothy 2:11-13  
(Preached at Trinity, May 29, 2022)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. In **Verse 3** Paul admonished Timothy to press on, to endure the hardship of a follower of Jesus Christ.  
**2 Timothy 2:3** - "Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus."  
As I've pointed out, Paul used three metaphors to describe the steadfast endurance of the Christian.  
We press on as a faithful soldier.  
We press on as a well-disciplined athlete.  
We press on as a hard-working farmer.
2. In **Verses 8-10** Paul gives four additional reasons why the faithful Christian must be willing to endure whatever hardship he might face in his Christian service.
  - A. Remember the Resurrected Christ  
**Verse 8** - "Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead"
  - B. Remember the Unbound Word of God  
**Verse 9** - "I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned."  
They may bind and imprison us, but God's Word will not be bound.
  - C. Remember the Salvation of the Elect  
**Verse 10** - "I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen"
  - D. Remember the Promise of our Reward  
**Verses 11-12** – We will live and reign with Christ.
3. So far, we've looked at the first three.
  - A. We are serving the living resurrected Christ who delivered us from our offences and now sits at the right hand of majesty. He's alive! He's ruling and defending His people!
  - B. Although Paul was bound and imprisoned God's Word will not be bound. God's people can face opposition and persecution with confidence knowing that God's Word is not dependent on our freedom. It will prevail.
  - C. We endure whatever hardship for the sake of God's elect.  
**Verse 10** - "I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus *and with it eternal glory.*"  
The thought that there are millions of elect souls who have not yet come to Christ should drive us onward with the Gospel.
4. This morning I want us to look at the final motivation Paul says will drive us to press on through whatever hardship we might experience for the sake of the Gospel.  
We have the promise of an eternal reward.
5. Paul begins this long sentence with "It is a trustworthy statement"  
It is an axiomatic foundational statement – perhaps an early creedal statement.  
This phrase is used 5 times in the N.T. – 4 in 1 & 2 Timothy and one in Titus

I. **Verse 11** – "For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;"

This is also repeated in Romans 6

**Romans 6:8 NAU** - "Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,"

- A. The Romans passage has the context of our death to sin  
It speaks of the transforming work of regeneration. We have passed from spiritual death to spiritual life.

**Romans 6:4-6 NAU** - "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;"

1. It marks the death of the old man  
This death is an essential element of regeneration  
**Romans 8:13 NAU** - "for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live."
2. We can apply it this way to this passage. Why was Paul willing to die for the sake of the Gospel? Because he had already died.
3. But Paul in **2 Timothy** has in mind physical suffering even leading to death—the martyr's death.

- B. Paul has his eye on our union with Christ.

**2 Timothy 2:11-12 NAU** - "For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; <sup>12</sup> If we endure, we will also reign with Him"

1. Paul has been speaking of the hardship of discipleship. We are willing to suffer even unto death.  
**Verse 3** – "Suffer hardship"  
**Verse 9** – "for which I suffer hardship"  
**Verse 10** – "for this reason I endure all things"  
**Verse 11** – "for if we died with Him"
2. If we die for the Gospel we are sharing in the death of Christ.  
**Romans 8:16-17 NAU** - "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*."
3. We are willing to suffering hardship, even unto death, for the sake of Christ. Not all of us are called to die a martyr's death, but all of us are called to endure whatever hardship the Christian life may require.  
William Hendriksen says Paul is in essence saying:  
"For Christ's sake and in harmony with his example we have given ourselves up once for all to a life that involves exposure to pain, torture, reproach, and finally to the martyr's death. We have, accordingly, *died to* worldly comfort, ease, advantage, and honor."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> William Hendriksen and Simon J. Kistemaker, *Exposition of the Pastoral Epistles*, vol. 4, New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1953–2001), 257.

4. Few Christians see Christianity in those terms. Few think of the hardship of Christianity. Most don't want to be inconvenienced, even in minor things.

C. Paul is contrasting loyalty with disloyalty.

**Verse 11** – if we die with Him

**Verse 12** – if we endure, we shall reign with Him

**Verse 12** – if we deny Him, He will also deny us

## II. Our reward

A. We shall live with Him - "If we died with Him, we shall also live with Him"

1. Surely, we can view this as our life in Christ. We are living with Christ now. We are living the resurrected life. But Paul is speaking of our eternal reward.
2. Heaven is a literal place in the presence of Christ  
**John 14:1-3 NAU** - "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also."
3. This present world will be destroyed  
**2 Peter 3:12-13 NAU** - "looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! <sup>13</sup> But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells."  
**Revelation 21:1 NAU** - "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea."
4. If we are leaving this world, why do we focus our attention on it as if this is all there is?  
Paul is saying, "I endure all things because I am leaving this world to be with the Lord Jesus Christ"

B. We shall be like Christ – to be with Christ demands a great change.

**1 John 3:2 NAU** - "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is."

**Philippians 3:20-4:1 NAU** - "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup> who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. "

1. The redeemed shall put on glorified bodies.  
**1 Corinthians 15:50-52 NAU** - "Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."

2. If this body is just a vessel to hold our eternal spirit why are we so fearful of losing it?
- C. Upon our death we shall go immediately to be with Christ  
**2 Corinthians 5:6-8 NAU** - "Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord-- <sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight-- <sup>8</sup> we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord."
1. Even if we are called upon to sacrifice our life, we will immediately go to be with Christ
  2. These things should place this life in the proper perspective
  3. We live in a world where all things are temporary and passing away. Everything around us is decaying, dying, and coming to an end.
- III. In **Verse 12** Paul continues to place this life in a proper perspective.  
**2 Timothy 2:12 NAU** - "If we endure, we will also reign with Him"
- A. The Christian life is often a grueling marathon
1. The word for "endure" is ὑπομένω. It refers to steadfast patience. The King James word "longsuffering" captures the meaning well.
  2. Paul used a form of the word in **1 Thes.**  
**1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 NAU** - "We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; <sup>3</sup> constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,"
  3. The Christian endures whatever the call of discipleship might bring. But there is great reward for those who endure.  
**Matthew 10:22 NAU** - "You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved."
- B. Paul is reminding us that as Christians we are partakers of the life of Christ in every way – This union is a profound mystery
1. We are partakers of His divine nature  
**2 Peter 1:4 NAU** - "For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust."
  2. We are partakers of His life, His death – we must also share in His sufferings  
**Philippians 3:8-11 NAU** - "More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, <sup>9</sup> and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, <sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; <sup>11</sup> in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."

- C. We shall also reign with Him – we are joint-heirs with Christ  
**Romans 8:16-18 NAU** - "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*. <sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."  
**Revelation 3:21 NAU** - "He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."
1. This points to our eternal blessings and the dignity of our position in Christ as we share in His glory
  2. Paul is saying that there is nothing in this life that can compare to this! We can endure all things that we might be partakers of this glory.

- IV. Paul accompanies his reminder of our blessings with a warning  
 "if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:"

**Matthew 10:33 NAU** - "But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven."

- A. This is not putting a condition upon the Gospel
  1. Paul is not saying men are saved by not denying Christ or that dying a martyrs death guarantees our salvation.
  2. Nor is this telling us that it is possible to lose our salvation by denying Christ.
- B. Paul is simply giving us a further compelling reason for preaching the gospel without fear.
  1. Because those who confess Christ before men give evidence that they are Christians, that they are being confessed in heaven.
  2. Because those who deny Christ before men give evidence that they do not know Him.  
**Matthew 7:23 NAU** - "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"
- C. True disciples of Christ will endure whatever hardship until the end.
  1. To deny Christ means to refuse to acknowledge Him as the Ruler of your life – to disown Him.
  2. To deny Christ is to turn away from Him when the cost of discipleship gets too high.  
**Matthew 13:20-21 NAU** - "The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup> yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away."
  3. These Christ will disown

- D. **2 Timothy 2:13 NAU** - "If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself."
1. "faithless" - ἀπιστέω – to have no belief – to lack saving faith
  2. We must not presume that those who continue in unbelief will somehow get a pass. This is the danger of teaching the universal love of Christ whereby He will receive all just as they are.
  3. We should see this that Christ will always be faithful to His Word and promises. All will receive justice.
    - a. In other words, our faithlessness to Him results in His faithfulness to Himself in judging our infidelity.
    - b. The unbelieving person will ultimately deny Christ because they were never converted - they never had faith in Christ. They deny Him every day in word and deed and they will receive their just punishment.
    - c. Believers will endure to the end and receive their reward by His mercy.

**Conclusion:**

1. The question you need to ask yourself is, "Am I abiding faithful to a genuine profession of faith in Christ?" "Am I continuing to endure in spite of this present world?"
2. If you answer yes, praise God who has promised you a great reward.
3. If you cannot answer yes, there are two possibilities.
  1. You are a believer on dangerous ground. But God will not forsake His own. **2 Timothy 2:19 NAU** - "Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness." Repent of your unfaithfulness and turn to Christ.
  2. You are merely an outward professor of religion. **2 Timothy 3:5 NAU** - "holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power" Repent and turn to Christ