

“The Resurrected Christ”
2 Timothy 2:8-13
(Preached at Trinity, May 8, 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. Paul is continuing to encourage Timothy to press on through his present trials. At the end of **Chapter 1** Paul gave examples of both faithfulness and unfaithfulness - Phygelus and Hermogenes who abandoned Paul while Onesiphorus remained faithful. Paul opened this chapter with the words, “You therefore, be strong . . .”
Paul then continues his words of encouragement. He uses metaphors of steadfast perseverance – a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer.
2. Suffering has been a central theme in this second letter of Paul to Timothy. This is not surprising since Timothy is going through severe trials because of the truth, and Paul is in prison facing execution because he preached the truth.
Why would someone be willing to do this? To be so steadfast and unbending regarding the truth? Would it not be easier to just go with the status quo? Isn't it better to live without conflict, to get along with others? To promote harmony?
 - A. Timothy was surrounded by church members who would not endure sound doctrine and by teachers who would tickle their itching ears. Why not join with them? Why cause such division by being so dogmatic?
 - B. And what about Paul. If only he could keep his mouth shut. He knew that his preaching was causing trouble. Why not go where they would not be so hostile?
 - C. What about the countless martyrs who have sacrificed their lives – Some in horrible suffering. What would bring someone to make such a sacrifice?
3. We have great reason to sacrifice all that we have for our great Savior and His great gospel. In the passage before us this morning Paul gives several motives for continuing faithful to the gospel even in the face of great personal risk. These will be our themes over the next several weeks.
 - A. The Resurrected Christ
Verse 8 - "Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead"
 - B. 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. The Salvation of the Elect
Verse 10 - "I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen"
 - D. The Promise of our Reward
Verses 11-12 – We will live and reign with Christ.
"For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; If we endure, we will also reign with Him"
4. This morning I want us to look at the first motive for giving ourselves for the Gospel.
Jesus Christ is risen from the grave.

- Paul says in **Verse 8**, "Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead"
5. On a Sunday that isn't Easter, I want us to consider again the importance of the Resurrection.
 - I. To the Apostles and the early church, the resurrection was an essential element of the Gospel message. Paul said, "according to my gospel" which was the gospel of Christ.
 - A. Paul considered it an acid test for faith.

Romans 10:9 NAU - "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;"

 1. A person's attitude about the resurrection is a matter upon which his salvation rests.
 2. It is the very heart of the Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 NAU - "that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,"
 - B. The Apostles considered it of such great importance they considered it an essential element in their preaching. I'm preaching about the resurrection this morning. They included it in every sermon.
 1. Peter at Pentecost

Acts 2:23-24 NAU - "this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death. ²⁴ "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power."
 2. Peter preaching in the Temple

Acts 3:14-15 NAU - "But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ but put to death the Prince of life, *the one* whom God raised from the dead, a *fact* to which we are witnesses."
 3. Paul preaching at Perga

Acts 13:28-30 NAU - "And though they found no ground for *putting Him to death*, they asked Pilate that He be executed. ²⁹ "When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. ³⁰ "But God raised Him from the dead;"
 4. Paul preaching on Mars Hill

Acts 17:30-31 NAU - "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent, ³¹ because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."
 - C. The whole of Christianity rests upon this doctrine
 1. If you remove the resurrection you remove the essence of Christianity and the basis of our hope.

1 Corinthians 15:14; 16-17 NAU - "if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain."

¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;
¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins."

2. Why is the resurrection so important?
 - a. It proves that the gospel is true - if He is still dead then the gospel is a false and we are without hope.
Corinthians 15:14 NAU - "if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain."
 - b. It proves that His sacrifice satisfied Divine justice - God raised Him from the grave
 - c. It proves that Jesus Christ reigns sovereignly as our King. Jesus is the fulfillment of the David Covenant of an everlasting Kingdom.
Luke 1:32-33 NAU - "He 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; ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."
 - d. Jesus is sitting at the right hand of majesty as Lord of Lord's and King of kings.
Romans 8:34 NAU - "Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us."
3. The resurrection proves that He is coming again to receive His own. It serves as the basis for our hope of eternal life
John 14:1-3 KJV – "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also."
4. The Resurrection is the basis of our hope – it is foundational
1 Peter 1:3 NAU - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"

- II. Paul is saying, "Remember this. Jesus Christ has risen from the grave." He is alive! Paul is doing more than just presenting a central fact of the Gospel. He is applying this truth to the hardships Timothy is facing – and the hardships we face. We must look to the resurrected, living Christ.
 - A. Jesus Christ lived and demonstrated the life of obedience before God
Hebrews 12:1-2 NAU - "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of

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."

1. The context of this verse tells us to look at the great cloud of witnesses who have endured the pain and shame of discipleship
2. And then we are told to look to Jesus as our "Author"
ἀρχηγός - the chief leader, prince, one that takes the lead in any thing and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter
3. Jesus is our High Model – by faith He walked according to the ways of the Father being obedient unto death, even the death of the cross
4. "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him."
Our exaltation is not in this life! In this life we are to be meek, humble, servants. In this life we are to suffer, endure hardship. And in due time God will exalt us.

1 Peter 5:6 NAU - "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,"

καίρως – The right time, the right season

Romans 8:16-18 NAU - "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ 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*. ¹⁸ 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."

- B. The living, glorified Christ is worthy of suffering for – or even dying
1. Peter - Was forced to watch his wife crucified before him. As she suffered he encouraged her "Remember the Lord" - When his moment of crucifixion came he asked to be crucified up-side-down
 2. Andrew was bound to the cross & left to die of thirst & exposure - When faced with the cross he prayed "Hail, precious cross! Thou hast been consecrated by the body of my Lord and adorned with His limbs as rich jewels. I come to thee exulting and glad."
 3. James was led away and beheaded knowing that Jesus was there to receive him.
 4. Stephen saw the risen Lord standing to receive him
Acts 7:56 NAU - "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

III. What place does the resurrection have in your life?

- A. Is the reality of the risen Christ evident? Do you live as though He sees all? Do you live as though He is with you?
Matthew 28:20 NAU - "and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
Hebrews 13:5-6 NAU - "He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," ⁶ so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?"
- B. Are you following in the example of Christ?
Matthew 16:24 NAU - "Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

1. We have been promised that this life would be difficult for the Christian
But wasn't this also true for Jesus?
There was pain before pleasure
There was sorrow before joy
There was humiliation before glorification
There was death before the resurrection
2. This is the life of the Christian – don't believe the lies of our hedonistic generation and the health, wealth gospel that has so permeated our society.
3. Jesus said:
Matthew 10:22 NAU - "And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved."

Conclusion:

1. If Jesus, the King of kings, is sitting at the right hand of majesty ruling with absolute power and dominion what have you to fear in this life?
2. Do you believe He is alive? Do you believe you have been raised with Him?
Colossians 3:1-4 NAS - "If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory."