

2 Timothy 2:8-10 Resurrection Life

Second Timothy is a call to continue courageously in service to Jesus Christ.

A) Timothy was in a difficult situation: Persecution more intense {Growing Apostasy from False teachers

B) Here in chapter 2 Paul wants Timothy to see that the ministry is like being a Soldier

Endure Hardship as a good Soldier – Not get entangled with the affairs of this life

B) Ministry is like being a Disciplined athlete – Follow the rules

C) Ministry is like Farming – Wait for the harvest

In the midst of what he was facing – Timothy might have been prone to ask –

A) Why do I want to fight / Why endure/ Why train so hard / why wait –

B) So Paul in v.8 Brings him back to the basics of the Christian life when he says – Remember the Resurrection!

Remember Christ is RISEN – 2 Tim 2:8-10

8 Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, 9 for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. 10 Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

It is apparent from the Old Testament that remembering the great acts of God is essential to the spiritual well-being of God's People.

A) In fact, God is very directive about this.

B) The Passover. Yearly event commemorating – Release from Egypt – Angel of death passed over.

C) All the Yearly festivals were meant to serve as a source of remembrance for God's Provision / protection / guidance.

D) Crossing the Jordan. : MEMORIAL of ROCKS for REMEMBRANCE -

E) Today in the NT Memorial: COMMUNION - Why all this emphasis on remembering?

A) Because God's children have always tended to forget the wonderful things He has done.

B) The seventy-two verses of Psalm 78 mourn Israel's tendency to forget God's faithfulness.

1) Verses 10, 11 sum it up.

They did not keep God's covenant and refused to live by His law.

They forgot what He had done, the wonders He had shown them.

C) Short memories! {We can be so Forgetful

This matter of remembering was on Paul's mind as he wrote his second letter to Timothy.

A) Immediately after the greeting, he called Timothy to remember the faith of their forefathers (1:3),

B) To Remember his own deep friendship with Timothy (1:4),

C) He wants Timothy to remember his own rich spiritual heritage (1:5) Grandma / Mother

1) Remember the day of Timothy's call and gifting for ministry (1:6)

D) Remember the pattern of sound teaching he had given Timothy (1:13)

Remember, remember, remember, remember.

E) But everything that Paul is wanting Timothy to remember has its root in this great reality

1) 8 Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel

Today I want us to consider from our text 3 ways how the Resurrection of Jesus Christ affects our lives

#1 Resurrection is the Basis of our hope: Surprises and Submission.

A) Gospel = Good news! – Hope for a Hopeless world

1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the

resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

When the Disciples were following Jesus – Messiah – Savior, Romans – set up a Kingdom

A) Hope was Dashed – on Friday/ Hope was resurrected on Sunday. -

B) Jesus had fun with his Resurrection! – Appear: Remember the time in the upper room – hey guys

1) Peace be with you. Thomas was missing - Appear – disappear –

C) Even at ascension – They watch Him ascend
Acts 1:9-11

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven?"

D) He is coming back – He has been doing this for 50 days, here one minute and gone the next!

Given this Promise! -

This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in **like manner** as you saw Him go into heaven."

A) That is our hope! { Saved us / coming for us

1) John 14 Heaven – Resurrection hope – He is coming to receive us again!

B) the Resurrection proved the gospel message.

Paul had said, "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith" (1 Corin 15:14).

C) But he *had* been raised, This resurrection substantiated the gospel.

1) Jesus' resurrection demonstrated the gospel's power.

D) "Remember" is a continuous command.

1) Timothy is to "remember [and keep on remembering] Jesus Christ, raised from the dead,

E) Timothy, don't lose sight of that!

If Timothy is to be like a soldier who is enduring hardship in order to please his commanding officer – what Good is that – if his commander in Chief is Dead.

A) Christ was from the seed of David, which presents Him both as a man and a royal heir.

B) Messiah – Descendant of David!

Bb) We are to be motivated in our service by remembering that the one we serve is the God-man/the Savior-King. {Risen Lord

C) If He is an Athlete disciplining himself to run in the games- what is the point if there is no reward.

1) If Christ is not **risen from the dead** – there is no hope of future reward – no prize – no heaven –

D)) Paul called Jesus the First Fruits of the Resurrection – First of many – lives impacted –

If Timothy is to be a farmer planting the seeds of the gospel – patiently waiting for the harvest – what is the point – if there is no Resurrection!

A) He is planting Blanks – seeds that are not going to produce any fruit –

B) The Resurrection is the Key: What sets Christianity apart from all other faiths – Risen leader

C) Proof that JESUS is the MESSIAH

1) Hope of Mankind -

D) Jesus Christ is the resurrected, living Messiah. He is everything we need for life and salvation.

1) He lives! He is all-powerful! Keep on remembering this.

#2 The Resurrection overcomes our Limitations:

9 for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.

Word is not Chained!

Hebrews 4:12-13

12 For the Word of God is living It is living – it is active – because it's author is active, He is alive and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature

hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Sometimes our tendency is to focus on our limitations what we can't do or what we are lacking.

A) What difference does it make that you may be limited?

B) Think about how Paul was limited. He was chained to a Roman guard in a prison.

C) You can't get more limited than that! He could not get outside the boundaries of that dark cell.

1) Yet he was not frustrated because the Word of God was not bound.

D) Think about Paul's first term of imprisonment in a Roman cell.

1) He wrote in Philippians – gospel spread throughout the **whole Palace guard – Revival**

E) Guarded 24 hrs a day – 4 hour shifts – 6 guards per day – Sharing the gospel -

1) I don't want to guard that Guy.

Think about what came out of that Prison time

A) Prison epistles – Philippians / Colossians / Philemon / Ephesians

B) The great inspiration for the Ephesians 6 armor of God – Soldier – Paul is chained to

C) What is that called – Breastplate – great – the breast plate of righteousness

1) **Helmet of Salvation / Shield of faith**

D) Paul was chained but the Word was not chained

1) **Flowing in more ways than one!**

In his hymn **"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"** Martin Luther wrote, **"The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still."**

E) Luther knew that regardless of what happened to us, God's Word remains unbound.

That's an important message for those who say we need to SOFTEN the gospel message so we don't lose the freedom to preach it.

A) They say we need to take away the offense of the gospel, but that would rob the gospel of its power

B) I am **Not ashamed of the gospel it is the power of God unto Salvation for everyone who believes.**

Romans 1:16

The testimony of the church in China

A) Countless numbers of Christians died for their faith when the communists took over China.

B) Ever since then the church has been persecuted and oppressed. Yet it is estimated that it has grown to between 30 and 100 million believers.

C) Against the law to preach, but **God's Word is not bound!**

Sometimes Christian Leaders try to present this doom and gloom – picture – we are living in this postmodern culture- Day of Tolerance

A) What is the use – everything is going down hill

1) **Not True- the Word is not chained**

B) The Risen Christ is still at work – His Word does not return void

C) God's Word is not chained.

1) Men from our D/A ministry weekly go into rehab centers / preach the word – setting people free from addictions

Jesus said in John 8:32 **you shall know the Truth and the Truth shall set you free**

V.36 **He who the Son sets free is free indeed.**

B) Men & women who go into Jails

1) Youth guys go into Schools –

C) Counseling – Broken marriages bound in Bitterness

1) Word is not chained – set free / heals the broken hearted

When John Bunyan, the author of *The Pilgrims' Progress*, was imprisoned in Bedford jail, his cell was in a building inside a high wall. **During the day crowds would gather outside the wall and listened to Bunyan as he preached.**

His voice carried over the wall through the bars of his cell window. **The Word of God was not bound.**

Several years ago, Bible translators Bruce and Jan Benson driving down a mountainside in the Peruvian Andes. As they came around a corner, they came bumper to bumper with a truckload of terrorist rebels known as The Shining Path.

Men jumped out of the truck brandishing automatic rifles, surrounded the Bensons' car, and ordered them to get out. Jan thought, "This is it! This is the end of our lives." The terrorists took them to a nearby town. On the way, fearful and bewildered, Jan felt the need to pray and then to sing.

The Lord spoke to her heart – 'The Lord inhabits the praises of His people.' She protested, "But Lord, I don't know how to praise You right now." "Sing," came the answer. "At least you can sing."

So she began to sing, "You are my hiding place. You always fill my heart with songs of deliverance.

Whenever I am afraid I will trust in You." Other songs also flowed. Suddenly, she felt as though she was the only person alive on earth, just her and God.

She felt His all-encompassing love and His assurance that He was in control. Nothing, not even death, could remove her from His presence.

That night the rebels unexpectedly released the Bensons, but they confiscated their car, their portable projection equipment and film reels of the Jesus film

One year later, the Bensons were living in the capital for safety. Jan received a phone call. One of their captors had become a Christian and wanted to meet with them.

When they met, he told them that he was an experienced killer and that he and the others had planned to kill them that night. But, for some reason they just could not do it and released them instead.

Then, the rebels set up the projector and watched the film, eventually many times. At one viewing, several hundred rebels were watching and listening to God's Word in their own language. Many were so moved that they wanted to lay down their weapons right there and leave The Shining Path.

Standing before them as a fellow believer, their former

enemy said to them, "Please forgive me for my part in what we did to you that day."

The Bensons were able to go back to that village and finish the translation of the New Testament into that language.

God's witnesses may be imprisoned, but His Word cannot be imprisoned.

The Resurrection is the reason our limitations can be overcome!

#3 The Resurrection reminds us of the Big Picture:

10 Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Concerned about Salvation!

A) There are those who have been Chosen by the Lord who have yet to come into the fold –

B) What kept Paul going was the reality of the reason – that is why he was there.

1) All amount of suffering for that purpose – Others might obtain Salvation!

C) Remember Acts 18 Paul is in Prison in Corinth Acts 18:9-10

9 Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city. NKJV

The resurrection pictures God's destruction of death, which is Satan's greatest weapon.

It also pictures salvation.

Christ's death was a death for sin. His being alive means the penalty for sin is satisfied.

Timothy, there are lives at stake – Any suffering we encounter is worth it – if it means that others can be saved.

Seen Sickness – Bring people to Christ

Financial Ruin

Untimely death

Always – It was worth it

Paul had endured a boat-load of suffering

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

“We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed — 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So then death is working in us, but life in you.”

NKJV

Christ Died – So you could live!

REMEMBER THE RESURRECTION!