

2 Timothy 2:11-13

A Faithful Father

The Title of my message today is a Faithful Father

A) Came across a website yesterday: MyDad is my hero.com

B) Some kids shared why their Dad was their hero.

C) If you have come today – hoping that I am going to blast the dads – Disappointed

D) **Some pp have that mentality** - Good day to talk to dads about their responsibilities – Fathers

1) Special day: Let them have it! Happy Father's day

E) Well guys – what I want us to consider is the **Faithfulness of Father God**

1) Encouragement that what He is – He wants us to be Working in us.

Paul is writing this letter as a Father to his son in the faith Timothy.

A) Timothy is a Pastor – Serving in Tough times

1) Growing persecution – Roman Empire

2) Apostasy spreading like wild fire in the Church.

B) Paul is writing to young Timothy to stay the course. – Hang in there

1) Don't Shrink back / don't give up / don't lose sight of the Big Picture – Resurrection of Christ & Heaven

C) It is at this point in the letter – that Paul reminds Timothy of a familiar Church Hymn - Read v.11

This is a faithful saying

Paul uses the phrase **This is a faithful or trustworthy saying** five times in the Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus),

A) But it is found nowhere else in the New Testament.

B) He seems to use it as a way to introduce a truth that was commonly known & believed in the early church

This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him, if we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

C) **The Song consist of 4 Stanzas** – 3 are positive one is negative.

The First Stanza has been the source of some confusion in the Church. For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him

A) Some think that Paul is making a Promise here for Martyrs

B) That idea seems to fit the context of the Chapter – where Paul is writing about Persecution & enduring

1) Promise – If we die – if they take our lives like they did Christ – we will live w/ Him!

C) We have heaven & eternal living to look forward to!

D) I admit that seems to fit the context of what Paul is saying of the preceding verses –

1) Remember the Resurrection – Salvation & glory are waiting.

E) Talked about that last time – Key to enduring anything is seeing the big Picture – the reward

However there are those who have a problem with that interpretation of this verse because Paul writes in the aorist tense.

A) Lit *Because we have died with Him*-They say Paul is referring back to an event that has already occurred

B) Rather than looking to the future eminent death that awaits them.

C) For that reason they suggest that Paul is referring to the truth of Romans 6-

1) Concerning **our identification with Christ death.**

Romans 6:3-7

“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ

was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.”

So some believe Paul is referencing this Spiritual truth that is symbolized in Baptism.

A) In a **spiritual sense**, we died with Christ the moment we trusted Him as our Savior.

B) We were buried with Him, and we rose again with Him from among the dead.

- 1) To now walk in a newness of life – Not after the flesh but after the Spirit.

C) **The More we lay hold of that truth – old man was crucified with Christ. The more we live!**

1) The more that we enjoy our new life in Christ

An owner of a **dry cleaning and dyeing business** hung this quaint sign in his window: "**We dye to live, we live to dye; the more we dye, the more we live; and the more we live, the more we dye.**"

D) True For the child of God, the more he dies, the more he lives! Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me

John 10 I have come that you might have life that more abundantly.

A) But right before making that statement – Contrast the thief, comes to Kill, Rob, destroy.

B) Satan is the thief who seeks to do everything in his power to keep the Christian from experiencing abundant life. **BATTLE / WAR**

C) John 12 Seed falls to the ground and dies – it lives

1) Life is the result – much fruit

D) **Satan tries to get us to not die to self – to live for self – Self preservation is his mantra**

1) Look out for self – don't sacrifice. –

E) But Jesus teaches us – The more we die the more we live – **More of the abundant life we enjoy**

1) Some think that is what Paul is referencing here.

F) I say: Take your pick, both are true statements

2nd Stanza: if we endure, we shall also reign with Him.

A) Endurance is a major theme of this Chapter.

B) **Soldier endures hardship/ Athlete endures training / Farmer endures the seasons**

1) "Endure" is the word Paul uses to describe himself in verse 10: "**Therefore I endure everything.**"

C) It means to hold your ground, particularly during affliction, and it involves suffering.

The song assures the faithful believer of eternal reward. There is a reward for enduring

A) **The reward is greater than what one might gain from quitting. We will reign with Him!**

B) Jesus was specific about this in the parable of the talents, where he has the master say, "**Well done, my good servant! ... Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities**" (Luke 19:17).

C) The Bible says that we are going to rule and reign with Christ when He returns – 2nd coming

1) Hard to comprehend – But it is the truth

D) I believe there will be special assignments and recognition to those who endured affliction.

3rd Stanza is a Sober warning: If we deny Him, He also will deny us:

A) Now the NIV version translates the word deny to disown. – I think that makes this clearer.

B) **Hear Deny:** We think of Peter in a moment of weakness in his faith – Denying Christ – 3 times – if saying – I don't know the man.

1) But Peter never disowned Christ.

C) In fact he was heartbroken after the fact.

1) Broken hearted that He could let his Lord down in that way.

Judas on the other hand Disowned the Lord. – He turned from Him and turned Him over to those who would kill Him.

A) What is amazing about that is in Matthew's account of the Betrayal – when they came to arrest Jesus in the garden. –

Matt mentioned that Jesus addressed Judas in this way: *Friend, who are you seeking?*

B) I personally think by doing so Jesus was giving Judas one last Chance TO OWN Him.

1) Judas didn't repent and followed thru with his plot.

C) We will not see Judas in Heaven.

Jesus gave him a chance. That is the heart of the Lord – If a person wants to renounce Christ

A) If they want to walk away from the faith – Jesus will make it very hard – But He doesn't force.

B) Paul will mention Hymenaeus & Philetus – false teachers in v. 17 – Also Demas

1) Man in 1 Corinthians – Turn him over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh – soul be saved

Concern is for the soul -

A) Person so hardens their heart in resisting the truth – Jesus lets them go.

B) But the fate of a person who continues down that path – is not good.

“Whoever acknowledges Me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns Me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven” (Matthew 10:32, 33).

C) Interesting concept – Own Christ {On Record}– Recognition, He is mine – I am His – He owns me

Now there are always those who hear a statement like that and think – I know I am not with the Lord right now – but I will come back one day.

A) Problem – Every time you are brought face to face with your denial – with your sin – and ignore it

B) More time - Ignore the conviction – Every time – Heart grows harder. **Like the hardening of cement**

1) You become more & more cemented in your sin.

C) More and more – hardened in your rebellion.
1) The more you put your eternal destiny @ risk!

D) The Bible describes a person who continues down that road – conscience seared – past feeling

E) You have been putting it off today – wake up
1) **Don't wait any longer!**

Brings us to the 4th Stanza:

A)The final stanza comes as, a magnificent reversal: “If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot deny himself“ (v. 13).

B) Whereas the preceding stanza was a warning, this is a *promise*, as are the first two stanzas

C) Stanza 3 is a good description of Judas who disowned the Lord

D) **Whereas Stanza 4 pictures – Peter** who had an episode of faithlessness –

1) Yet Jesus remained faithful - After the Resurrection – He restored Peter

Why is God like this? The magnificent coda tells us—“for he cannot deny himself.”

A) His faithfulness is rooted deep within His graciousness as the covenantal God who always acts in conformity to His nature.

B) What God is, he always is. No man is always himself

1) Men can be like a Chameleon – Lizard, changes colors

Adapting to his environment

C) But God is always Himself—He cannot be untrue to His own nature.

Pastor Samuel Rutherford, who spent years in an Aberdeen prison, wrote, “**Often and often, I have in**

my folly torn up my copy of God's covenant with me; but, blessed be His name, He keeps it in heaven safe; and He stands by it always."

The Faithfulness of our Father is a great thing to ponder.

A) He is faithful even when we are not –

B) Abe – Journey – famine – lacks faith – Egypt

1) Lacking faith more – Lies about his wife

C) God is faithful to protect Sarah → Pharaoh vision

Abraham and Sarah leave Egypt with a Souvenir Hand maiden – Hagar

A) Abe and Sarah lack faith – about God giving them a son.

B) They have been waiting a long time.

1) Sarah has an idea – Let's help God out – Make a son with Hagar – Surrogate

C) **"You want me to sleep with Young beautiful Hagar? – If I have to!**

1) They have a son – Ishmael, Father of Arab nations

D) God is still faithful – Sarah gives birth to Isaac in her old age – Isaac = Laughter - God is funny

Here is the Kicker – Hebrews 6:15 declares of Abe "And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise."

A) PATIENTLY ENDURED? – NO WAY!

B) That is how it is seen on the other side of Calvary.

1) **Failings in Faith – covered by the Cross!**

Listen, God is going to be faithful – The question is what are we going to pick up in the Journey

A) Which school? Obedience and trust – or the School of hard knocks

B) **The choice is up to us!** – There are ramifications and consequences to our faithlessness

1) But God is going to carry out His plan in your life.

C) Listen, you are going to make it to the destination

1) His purpose will be accomplished – He is a faithful Father –

Philippians 1:6

"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Hebrews 10:23 "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for He is faithful that promised."

Faithful in His Care and compassion.

Lamentations 3:22-24

"Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"

The faithfulness of God is seen in times of pressure.

1 Corinthians 10:13

"He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

He is faithful in His Understanding

Hebrews 2:17

Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and **faithful** high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

He is faithful in His Provision.

Psalm 100:5 **"For the Lord is good; His grace is everlasting, And His faithfulness to all generations."**

He is Faithful to forgive and restore: 1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Beautiful picture of this in Luke 15, story of the Prodigal son.

A) Really the Story of the Faithful Father.

B) Sons request: the Ultimate Insult.

C) Father stayed true to his Character – didn't compromise to appease his Son – he let him go.

1) Hardest thing for a father / mother to do.

D) Son went out – spent it all on wild living

1) Pig pen / senses / father's servants – I will go – not worthy to be your son..... Servant

Here is what Happened. Luke 15:20

"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him."

Several things to note about the Father:

1st it says he SAW the Son a long way off! This tells me – He never gave up

Daily looking down that road/ - Parents of Prodigals never give up – keep praying, keep watching

2nd He had COMPASSION - He wasn't thinking / "Well look who's coming home – I wonder what He wants, how Dare He come back !"

A) NO – " MY BOY - MY SON"

3RD HE RAN -

A) Only time in the Bible that God is depicted as Being in a Hurry – When?

B) Welcome a repentant sinner Home! love it

C) NOTE In those days it was not Kosher / considered undignified for an Elderly man to run in Public

D) But this Father was more concerned w/ welcoming his wayward son home – than he was concerned what People thought of him.

You Know when the Father is in a HURRY - **Welcome – those who repent !!!**

4th Showed affection- fell on his neck and kissed him.

A) Showed intimacy – Son, it is so good to see you

B) It is possible that this Father – was running not just to show AFFECTION/ but to give PROTECTION

C) See in Deut. Ch. 21 18 It stated that if a man had a stubborn & rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, who is a glutton and a drunkard.'

D) Then the Elders of the City will take that Son & stone him w/ Stones

So perhaps this Father ran out to his son & showered him w/ AFFECTION - Don't worry son – no one is going to hurt you

That Son was forgiven and restored!