

“Salvation Accomplished – Part 2”
2 Timothy 1:8-11
(Preached at Trinity, January 23, 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 **Verses 9-10** we find the abundant riches of God's accomplished work of salvation for His people. Paul's attention is on the power of God in the Gospel for which he is suffering.
2 Timothy 1:8-9 NAU - "join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us with a holy calling"
2. Paul has told Timothy to press on in spite of difficulty.
Verse 8 begins "therefore" which makes it inseparable from what came before. Paul is saying, Timothy, because of your genuine faith, and because of the gift of God that you must continue to kindle with fresh zeal, and because of God's power that is greater than the fear that grips you, don't be ashamed to share in suffering for the sake of the Gospel. To be ashamed of the Gospel because of fear is to deny the power of God.
3. In **Verse 9** Paul puts the power of God on display. He reminds Timothy of God's great power in the work of salvation – His marvelous work of grace which He purposed in eternity and accomplished in Jesus Christ. To be a part of this great salvation is the greatest blessing since the beginning of time. Paul says in **Verse 12** this is the reason he is willing to endure whatever hardship the Gospel might bring.
4. **Verses 9-10** tells us much about this work of salvation to which we have been called and for which we spend our lives laboring. We must be willing to suffer for the sake of that which was ordained to unto our salvation.
We can see several wonderful truths from this passage.
Last time we focused upon two of these truths.
 - A. Our salvation is an accomplished fact – "Who has saved us"
A statement of fact – He has saved us - a completed act
 1. When did it take place? It took place in eternity according to God's eternal decree.
 2. God calls things which are not yet as though they are. That which God decrees in eternity will certainly and infallibly come to pass in time. According to God's decree He has accomplished fully our redemption.
 3. Nothing about our salvation has been left to chance
 - B We are called "with a holy calling"
 1. Those who are called to salvation are called to holiness
Ephesians 1:3-4 NAU - "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Holiness is the basic element of the Christian life – it is the characteristic mark of a Christian.
 2. Our calling is to reflect the holiness of God.
We must be holy because God is holy – God reveals Himself as being holy and then proceeds to demand the same from us.

3. He changes our heart giving us a disposition of holiness. He gives us holy appetites.
 5. This morning I want us to pick up in our text where we left off.
- I. Our salvation is completely apart from our works – “Not according to our works”
- A. Man naturally wants to earn his salvation – the basis of all religions.
 1. Human beings love self-accomplishment. We have a whole industry built around diy – do it yourself. But, regarding our salvation there is no self-help, do it yourself option. The Gospel is for helpless sinners. Salvation is a work of God alone.
 2. This is the problem of Arminianism that insists you have to exercise the freedom of your will, exercise your faith, and accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. Arminianism destroys the gracious character of God’s salvation. Salvation becomes the fruit of human action.
 - a. If the difference between the redeemed and the lost is based on what WE do – no matter how minute, then God’s grace is polluted.
 - b. If the difference lies in our deeds, then there is cause for boasting – but the Bible excludes the possibility
 - B. Our salvation is completely and solely of God
 1. By our sin we have become debtors to God. It is a debt of an infinite amount—a debt we can never satisfy. We owe the penalty of God’s divine justice. The wages of sin is death. There is nothing we can ever do to remove our guilt. No amount of work, no good deed, nothing! That’s the good news of the Gospel. Jesus has satisfied Divine justice, paid our debt.
 2. God’s salvation humbles us. It destroys boasting.

Romans 3:27-28 NAU - "Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. ²⁸ For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law."

Ephesians 2:8-10 NAU - "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

 - a. Not that our works are irrelevant. It’s that God ordained that we should do good works, and then works out those good works through us by enabling us and providing the opportunities. It is all of God.
 - b. Paul is saying that the greatness of God’s grace makes us willing to suffer on account of it.

Matthew Henry – “The origin of it is the free grace and eternal purpose of God in Christ Jesus. If we had merited it, it had been hard to suffer for it; but our salvation by it is of free grace, and not according to our works, and therefore we must not think much to suffer for it.”¹

¹ Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 2360.

II. Our Salvation is “according to God’s own purpose”
 “according to His own purpose and grace”

A. The most basic concept of Theology is this: “God has a plan”

Isaiah 46:10 NAU - "Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'"

1. God has planned and purposed every event in history down to the smallest event. Nothing occurs without God having ordered it. God’s ultimate purpose is in the saving of His elect.

Romans 8:28-30 NAU - "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His purpose*.²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified."

2. Every detail of our salvation was ordained by God

3. The Father chose us to salvation and has ordered every detail to bring it to pass.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 NAU - "But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth."

4. The Father decreed that He would give us to His Son

John 6:37-39 NAU - "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.³⁸ "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.³⁹ "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day."

B. It was decreed that Jesus would come and that He would lay down His life for His people.

"which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,"

1. It was accomplished before the beginning of time – **2 Tim. 1:9**

Matthew 25:34 NAU - "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"

2. When we think about eternity we’ve entered into a realm that is beyond our comprehension. We cannot truly comprehend eternity. It is beyond our experience. John Murray: “We cannot think in terms of eternity; we have no eternal thought. Only God possesses that attribute because He alone is eternal. When we try to think of eternity we realize the limits of our understanding and we are reminded that eternity is incomprehensible to us. But we must think of eternity and think of it in such a way that the more we are aware of the limits of our understanding the more enhanced becomes our appreciation of the marvel of God’s eternal purpose and grace.”²

² John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1955), 92-93.

- III. Paul's point in verse 9 is that God's power is absolute –
Verse 8 – “according to the power of God”
- A. Our life in Christ demonstrates God's power.
1. We have been saved with a holy calling – we can see this demonstrated in God's powerful work in us.
 2. We know that we would never been able to give up our idols. We would not be willing to follow Christ with love and faithful service.
 3. God's purpose and grace must surely be absolute and immutable
He is truly “Almighty”
- B. If God is this powerful what is the basis of our fear?
1. Is anything too hard for our Great God?
If God did the impossible in saving you, is He not able to see you safely to the end?
 2. Does this knowledge stir you to labor more diligently? This is Paul's point with Timothy, and it speaks to us as well.

Conclusion:

1. Why would we flee from suffering if Jesus Christ is all glorious and transcends every earthly treasure.
2. All of the gifts of God come through our Lord Jesus Christ. Everything about our salvation finds its source in Christ. Notice Paul's words:
2 Timothy 1:9 NAU - "which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,"
 Jesus is our all in all
 Every hope of glory rests in our glorious Saviour - Jesus Christ
 Every spiritual enjoyment is connected with Jesus alone
 Every victory in our spiritual war rests in our mighty King, Jesus alone
 Every increase in our spiritual understanding must come through Jesus alone