

Thursday, May 11, 2023 • Read 2Timothy 2:8–10

Questions from the Scripture text: What is the command at the beginning of v8? About Whom is Timothy to remember something? What lineage is important to remember? What event is important to remember? In what are this lineage and event preached? What happens to Paul for preaching this gospel (v9)? What do people think of him? Even what has happened to him? But what hasn't been chained? Therefore, what does he endure (v10)? For whose sake? So that they may obtain what? In Whom is this salvation obtained? What is obtained with this salvation?

How are ministers (and all believers) strengthened? 2Timothy 2:8–10 looks forward to the second reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these three verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the minister of the Word is strengthened by union with Christ through meditation upon Him to Whom believers are united.**

Paul has urged Timothy to be strong, so that he might labor faithfully and fruitfully (v1–7). Now, he highlights the source of that strength: Jesus Christ, as He is offered to us in the gospel. It is not enough for believers to know that they should be strong. They must know Who is their strength and the ordinary means by which He strengthens. Resolve to be healthy never did for one's body that for which Providence has appointed healthful nutrition, exercise, sunshine, fresh air, and sleep. And mere resolve, and even mere effort, does even less for the soul. Christ Himself is the life of the soul. So, to what means does the apostle point his dear son in the faith and ministry?

Meditation upon Christ's grace for us. The initial command is "remember." What we do with our mind matters. First, we must remember that there was a plan for Jesus Christ to accomplish our redemption, and He has completed that plan. Jesus: the Lord saves. Christ: our anointed prophet like/greater than Moses, our anointed Great High Priest after the order of Melchizedek, and our anointed King the Son of David. The reference to "of the seed of David" reminds us of the plan from eternity that brought Him into the world, fully God and fully man. The resurrection affirms the success and completion of that plan. We can and shall and must be strong because the plan has succeeded. The redemption is accomplished. Christ is risen.

Meditating upon Christ's grace in us. v1 had commanded strength "in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." v10 will refer to the salvation "which is in Christ Jesus." Christ's grace not only refers to His actions two thousand years ago in our behalf, but also the wonderful work that He does in us by uniting us to Himself through faith. As we have been remembering in the midweek sermons in Romans 6, the resurrection is not only a finished and ongoing reality in Christ, who died once for all and now lives unto God. The resurrection is also an ongoing reality within the believer, by virtue of his union with Christ, so that the believer has experienced a resurrection and now lives unto God forever—and increasingly so in this life. We can and shall and must be strong because we are united to the resurrected one.

Meditating upon Christ's example. When v8 reminds Timothy that Christ was raised from the dead, it reminds Timothy of the ridicule and suffering and death that were the path through which Christ carried out His own mission and service in this world. We serve a King Who suffered, and we follow Him through suffering. We deny ourselves and take up whatever suffering the Lord has assigned to us, and live every day. For the believer there is sweetness in our suffering, for we have fellowship with the suffering Savior (cf. Php 3:10b). For the believer, there is sweetness and even honor in death, for we are united to a Savior Who died for us (cf. Php 3:10c). Not only are we resurrected spiritually, already, in Christ to live unto God, but we will follow His example later in physical resurrection as well. We can and shall and must be strong through the sufferings that come with our Christian life and service, because when all is said and done, we will be resurrected, even as Christ has.

Considering God's work in great servants who have gone before. Paul reminds Timothy of his own suffering (v9a–b). Paul has been faithful in his Christian life and membership and ministry. And what has resulted for him? He's generally thought of, spoken of, and treated as evil (even by much of the church, cf. 1:15, 4:14–16). He's even bound in chains as an evil-doer. The believer is strengthened to endure by remembering that God has done this before with other servants. The believer is strengthened to endure by being forewarned of the difficulty that lies ahead of him so that he will expect it. The believer is strengthened to endure by the fact that if God has knowingly planned that our course would pass through such difficulties, then it is because the strength that is by His Spirit, in His Son, is more than equal to those difficulties. Timothy was to consider how much good has come to the elect, and honor has come to Christ, through Paul's suffering. Now, Timothy was to endure strongly through his own suffering, by which the same God would continue bringing good to the elect and honor to Christ. And here we are, two thousand years later, with millennia of history and biography to add to that which is in the Scripture, knowing that our lives are assigned to us by the same Lord Who carries us in the same strength. Let us expect the hardship and endure it by His strength.

Considering God's unstoppable power and plan. Paul is in chains, but the Word of God isn't (v9c). Though we can be bound, imprisoned, and even killed, this cannot ultimately be done to the Word of God. He has willed His truth to triumph through us. Paul has been given his own part in this word's unchained success: "my gospel" (v8b).

Motivation of love for eternal souls. Paul adds a "therefore" here to show how he translates into action all of these truths that Timothy is to remember and consider from vv8–9. There are two great motivations that these truths inflame: love to souls' salvation and love to God's glory. God has so loved Paul, and so loved Timothy, that He has planned this from eternity, electing them to a salvation that would come in this glorious fashion: by Christ's finished work, by union with Christ, and by the Word through which Christ effects that union! O, how we who have been so loved should also love!

And when we love Him, we love what He loves. What does He love? All of those elect whom He is still saving. So Paul loves them and endures whatever comes to him in his appointed service as God is bringing them to salvation (v10a). And so now must Timothy. And so also must you. You have an appointed place in your home. You have a participation in the assembly of the saints, and burdens of others to bear, and all those precious one-another promises. And you have trials that are assigned to you—your very own trials, belonging to your very own course in this world. But there are eternal souls of the elect that God is saving through this overall plan, included your own part in it. Will you not love them, for His love's sake, and endure in the strength of Christ? You must!

Motivation of love for Christ's glory. These elect receive a salvation that comes with eternal glory. Our salvation has also come with eternal glory. And all of that glory is in Christ. It is unto the praise of God's glorious grace in Christ that the salvation of the elect is planned and completed (cf. Eph 1:6, 12, 14). It is so that He will be displayed as the firstborn among many brethren (cf. Rom 8:29) that we are made glorious with His own glory in our glorification (cf. Rom 8:30). The truth that we remember about our salvation motivates our hearts with love for His glory.

This is the secret strength of the believer's endurance: proper employment of the proper mind-fuel to inflame the proper heart-fuel. May the Lord give us to "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" by heeding the exhortation: "Remember Jesus Christ"!

What hardship have you been given to endure so far? What hardship might you be given in the future? What doctrines need to become woven through your thoughts and emotions, so that you are prepared even for hardships that you cannot anticipate? What are the ordinary ways that God has given, by which these doctrines become the core of our inner life? What use are you making of them?

Sample prayer: Lord, as Paul commanded Timothy, we are to remember Jesus Christ. But even this sweet command, we so often disobey. We forget His resurrection. We rob ourselves of the confidence of His finished work. We forget that it is His resurrection that is even at work in us, and we foolishly and rebelliously go through life as if it is to be lived in our own strength. When trouble comes, we are unbelieving and despair, rather than rejoicing that Your word is not chained. O forgive us, Lord, for we have so little love to elect souls, and so little love to the glory of Christ, that we are often at a loss about where our strength will come from. Grant that Your Holy Spirit would so work in us that, being full of love to You and Your elect, we would find that Your grace carries us. Thus, make Your strength to be perfect in our weakness, we ask through our almighty Christ, AMEN!!

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Second Timothy 2 verses 8 through 10. These are God's words. Remember that Jesus Christ. Of the seed of David. Was raised from the dead. According to my gospel. For which I suffer trouble as an evildoer. Even to the point of chains. But, The word of God is not chained.

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.

So far, the reading of God's inspired and inherent worth. So now the apostle has told Timothy to peace strong. But he doesn't just leave him. With. A instruction to stir up his desire that he was stronger. Try somehow from himself or in himself to be stronger. He gives him many things by which many ways, by which The Christian is strengthened.

The first is, The grace of Jesus Christ. And that in two ways. What Jesus has done for us. And what Jesus does in us. So sweet says, remember that Jesus Christ. Of the seed of David. Was raised from the dead. And yes, the name Jesus means the Lord saves and the title Christ means anointed one Reminding us that he is.

The prophet like Moses and the great high priest forever. After the order of Melchizedek, but especially that he is. The son of David. The forever king. But that he came as king. Not to destroy his enemies first. But to die for his sheep. The good shepherd, lays down his life for his sheep.

So the grace of cry, the grace of Christ and what he has done for us. But also the grace of Christ by what he has done in us. As he reminds him, by the time we get to the end of verse 10, salvation is in Christ, Jesus. That not only does Timothy have the promised on the savior who has finished his work and so Um, the outcome of all that Jesus died for must be obtained and it is very strengthening to know That the outcome of what we are serving for is guaranteed, not by our service, but by Christ's sacrifice.

But when he is also reminded that salvation is in Christ Jesus, His reminder that this one who has risen from the dead is one to whom Timothy. Now has been united by faith. So, like we've been hearing in Roman six, That if we are in Christ Jesus, we are in his resurrection.

And just, as Jesus Christ, the life that he lives, he died the death once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So we also Are to wreck in ourselves dead to sin once but all and alive unto God forever. And the live unto God, not just for the keeping of commandments, but also for the fulfillings of our callings.

Because the Lord, who made us the Lord, who appointed to us our time and our place, the one who gave us a role in the family in the church and a society. The one who has taught us much about how these Institutions, operate. Service in each area is every bit as much obedience to him.

As you shall not steal or You remember the sabbath day to consecrate it as holy? To keep it. Holy And so he is alive to God in Jesus Christ. The seed of David who was raised from the dead, So the grace of Christ and what Christ has done for him, the grace of Christ, and what Christ has done in him.

And then also Christ is his example. Because Christ being raised from the dead, is a reminder that Christ. Suffered. That it was not. Um, It was not through. Uh, that which was pleasant and comfortable. That the Lord Jesus accomplished his mission. And so in following him and being conformed to his image as the same apostle, says another places.

Often we are conformed to his suffering. And we hope it lasts to be conformed to his death. And so there is the grace of Christ. The example of Christ. There is the example of his beloved father in the faith who began again with this chapter. Reminding him as a second.

Great time in this letter you. Therefore my son And now he says in verse 9 reminds him that for this gospel that has now entrusted to Timothy's ministering. This gospel for which I suffer trouble as an evil doer. Even to the point of chains. So, not only do not expect it to be easy for you.

But do not expect others. To recognize when you are doing right. When you are doing good. They may call you evil. And punish you. For doing what is right. And so good soldier. Must cling to Christ a good runner. Must run according to the word, the good farmer. Must feed upon Christ.

Plus minister. That means of grace first to himself. So that he runs in the strength of Christ and fights in the strength of Christ. Because of Christ was killed. And Paul suffered even to the as an evil doer, even to the point of chains. Let Timothy and let those who have followed him for the next 2000 years.

Not think that our circumstances are guaranteed to be better. So we have the grace of Christ, and what Christ has done in him? What Christ has done for him? We have the example of Christ, we have the example of Timothy And then we have motivations. Motivation of love. For the elect and love for God.

Therefore, I endure all things for the sake of the elect. Why does he endure all things for all the sake of the elect? Because God does all things for the sake of the elect. The whole reason, there's a creation and history, providence redemption. Is because God decided to adopt children.

And he was gonna adopt them through union with his son. So that we would be in dwelt by his spirit and we would come into the fellowship of the triune God. This is not done, merely by creating. This is done by a creation and the fall that was such that we had sinned against the glory of God and there could be no other atonement, no other payment for our sin, no other deliverance from wrath.

Then Jesus God, the son himself. So that our salvation comes, But being united to him. And having his spirit in us. And knowing God as our father. And God decided to save this way. Because it was his intention before the world began. To have these children at the end.

That Jesus would be. The firstborn among many brethren. And so there are these elect according to the gospel for whom the sun came into the world. As the son of David. And he says, Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect that they also may obtain the salvation Which is in Christ Jesus.

Says I see how God loved me. The chief of sinners. To adopt him as a son in union with Jesus Christ and dwelt by his own spirit. Oh, how great is his electing love for me. But he doesn't just have electing love for me. He has electing love for others.

And so when I look out on the church, I do not. Look at all the ones who will potentially betray me and harm me. Although that's absolutely a theological truth of the last couple paragraphs. When Paul looks out on the church and is teaching Timothy That when Timothy looks out on the church, He looks on the assembly of those that contain.

By and large. Those whom God is bringing to salvation. Those whom God has loved. Would that everlasting adopting electing love? And Paul says, Whatever I endure at the hands of others. And even at the hands of some elect, because Uh, especially as we'll see in chapter 4. There are believers who get sucked in.

With the rest of the church when they are attacking a faithful man as well. And Paul is going to say of Alexander the Lord repay him. But he's going to say of many who got sucked in. Following Alexander, may it not be held against him. But for the sake of the everlasting electing, adopting love of God.

To these people counts and precious Paul. Hence them. And their salvation. Worthwhile of his suffering. And of his chains. And of his being called an evil doer. One of the great ways. To grow in endurance in the ministry or in Christianity in, in healthy church membership. Is to foster a love for souls.

That imitates God's everlasting love for souls. So he says, therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect that they also may obtain the salvation. But it's not just love for eternal souls isn't. What is the first and great love? Whom should we love? Most of all?

Who loves God and we love His glory. And this is not. And the salvation. Of the elect is how God glorifies Himself. And so not only out of love for them but especially out of love for His glory. That they also may obtain the salvation, which is in Christ Jesus.

With. Eternal. Glory. And we love for the display of God's glory. So several Uh, several things by which now, A plan. For Christian strengthening. The gospel of the grace of God in Christ, and what Christ has done for us. And then what Christ has done in us. The example of Christ.

The example of Paul and now Timothy and others into whom God has applied Christ and in God is used in the gospel of Christ. Oh, I missed the end of verse 9, the word of God not being changed. Remembering that in God's sovereign providence, He is working according to sovereign grace.

And even though we may suffer much, and we may be chained. What God is doing to save His people cannot be stopped. You are always winning. Even when you are suffering. If you are,

Excuse me. Even. If? Let's back up. You are always winning even if you are suffering. If you are ministering, the gospel. And so there's that certainty. And then the motivations love for the elect love for eternal souls. And also love, especially for God's glory, may God give us to have these things much on our minds.

To overrule any fear or worry or resentment. And make a strong. And enduring in the ministries to which God was called us. Let's pray. Father, thank you for this portion of your word. Thank you for giving it to our family. In the beginning of this day, we pray that the certainty of Christ's finished work on the cross.

And the almighty power of His. Work in us begun by your spirit. Would be great comforts and encouragements and strengthenings. In the parts of this day, when we are weary. And when we are tempted to turn our hand aside from That, which serves you. We pray that you would fill our hearts with an awareness of your love to our own eternal soul.

That we might love you who have loved us. That we might love eternal souls. An imitation of your love for them and participation in. And participation in your love for them. And we pray. Oh God. That Day by day week by week. For the rest of our time in this world.

Learning to be strong and to endure. By way of these reasonings, by way of these realities, By way of these motivations. Would be something that your spirit grows us in. And persists with us to continually, remind our minds and our hearts. For, we ask it in Jesus name. Amen.