

Sermon Notes 9/11/22

“Suffering for the Gospel”

How should we live in times of suffering?

1. Trust in the _____ of God.

2 Timothy 1:8

2 Timothy 1:7

2. Live according to God’s _____ and grace.

2 Timothy 1:9

Romans 8:28

3. Remember the _____ we have in Christ.

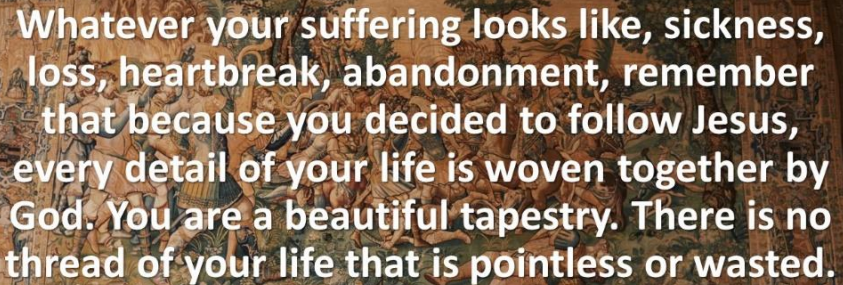
2 Timothy 1:10

1 Corinthians 15:56-57

4. Continue to _____ the gospel.

2 Timothy 1:11

Acts 5:41-42



Whatever your suffering looks like, sickness, loss, heartbreak, abandonment, remember that because you decided to follow Jesus, every detail of your life is woven together by God. You are a beautiful tapestry. There is no thread of your life that is pointless or wasted.

Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 2: September 11

2 Timothy 1:8-18

While he was in prison waiting for his execution, Paul urged Timothy to join with him in “suffering for the gospel” (2 Tim. 1:8). But as Christians living in a culture of comfort, are we prepared to suffer for the gospel? Consider the warning, Archie Word proclaimed in 1960:

The church Jesus said He would build was a suffering church. Its founder was crucified. Most of the apostles were murdered. The number of martyrs who gave their lives for the cause of Christ ran into the thousands in the first 300 years... What will our children think of us 100 years from now if we let this heavenly message die, refusing to suffer for it?¹

In 2 Timothy 1:8-18, we find some powerful principles that will help us live faithfully for Christ when we face all kinds of suffering.

Read 2 Timothy 1:8-18

1. What did Paul tell Timothy not to be ashamed of in verse 8?
2. What did Paul tell Timothy to do by the power of God? (1:8)

William Mounce writes,

V 8 is the thesis statement of 2 Tim 1:3 – 2:13 as it calls for loyalty to Christ and the gospel as well as loyalty to Paul himself... Rather than being ashamed, Timothy is called to embrace the gospel and suffer with others for its sake. But he is not called to do this on his own. Timothy has been given power by the Holy Spirit (v 7), and this same power from God will empower him while he suffers (v 8).²

3. Why has God called us to a holy life? (1:9)

¹ Victor Knowles, ed., *Repent or Perish: Selected Sermons & Essays of Archie Word* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1994), 195.

² William Mounce, *Word Biblical Commentary: Pastoral Epistles* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2016), 479-480.

If we are called to live a holy life because of God’s purpose and grace, then we can call on God and trust Him to help us live a holy life even in our times of suffering. Mounce comments,

The first of the two basic affirmations in vv 9-10 is that this God who will empower Timothy to suffer with Paul for the gospel (v 8) is the very God who has saved them and has called them away from a life of sin to a life of holiness. If God has been able to save Timothy, then he can empower Timothy as he lives out his holy calling in the midst of suffering.³

4. What did Jesus accomplish through the gospel (His death, burial, and resurrection)? (1:10)

5. Of what was Paul appointed a herald, an apostle, and a teacher? (1:11)

6. Why was Paul willing to suffer for the gospel? (1:12)

Paul talks about two different “deposits” in this chapter. The first one is in verse 12 where Paul talks about what he has entrusted to God. This deposit is Paul’s life.

C. Michael Moss observes,

Paul has entrusted himself to God. This, by the way, also fits the direction of the entire epistle. Paul is calling Timothy to be ready to suffer for the cause. To do that he must, like Paul, entrust his life or soul to God’s care. Paul’s use of the phrase “for that day” also supports this interpretation. God “is able to guard” Paul’s “deposit” until the last day.⁴

7. What was Timothy to do with the things he learned from Paul? (1:13)

8. What was Timothy to guard? How? (1:14)

9. Where does the Holy Spirit live? (1:14)

³ Mounce, 481.

⁴ C. Michael Moss, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1, 2 Timothy and Titus* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1995), 197.

The second deposit in this chapter is the message of the gospel that God entrusted to Paul and Timothy and to all Christians. Moss writes,

Paul's final imperative in this section is an appeal for Timothy to "guard the good deposit that was entrusted to" him. This time the "deposit" is clear. It is the "sound teaching" which Paul had left with Timothy. Maintaining the purity of the gospel will require something bigger than the man Timothy. He is to rely upon "the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us."⁵

10. Who had deserted Paul? (1:15)

11. What had Onesiphorus done for Paul? (1:16)

Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell note,

The refreshment was more than material. It was emphatically spiritual—soul refreshment - because the root of the Greek translated "refreshed" is the word for soul. Whereas most had recoiled from Paul's chains, Onesiphorus apparently counted it an honor to return again and again to refresh Paul. It had been dangerous to ask where Paul was. It was dangerous to visit him. It was most dangerous to return again and again. But Onesiphorus was there for Paul, when neither the sun nor the moon shone on his friend.⁶

12. What did Onesiphorus do when he came to Rome? (1:17)

13. What did Paul want the Lord to grant Onesiphorus? (1:18)

14. When have you felt ashamed about something that you believe?

15. When and how have you suffered for the gospel?

16. When have you been refreshed by someone?

17. How can you refresh someone this week?

18. How can you prepare yourself for times of suffering?

⁵ Moss, 198.

⁶ R. Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell, *1–2 Timothy and Titus* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 202.