

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 2:1-13
Sermon Title: Strength For Disciple-Making

Main Point: We are to look for strength in ministry through the grace of our union with Jesus Christ.

Introduction: Union with Jesus Christ

- Verse 1, 10, 11-13 & Romans 8:1
- Bonus text: Philippians 3:7-11

Main Question: What is this strength for?

Answer 1: The strength of God's grace in our union with Christ is for: Making disciples (2, Matthew 28:19-20)

Answer 2: The strength of God's grace in our union with Christ is for: Endurance in suffering (3-7; 1:8; 4:5; 1 Peter 4:15-19)

Answer 3: The strength of God's grace in our union with Christ is for: Remembering the gospel (8-10).

Bonus: A Summary of the Gospel Adapted from Milton Vincent's, "A Gospel Primer."

God – God is my Creator and supremely worthy of all my love, admiration and worship. He has been good to me as the provider of my every breath and function. He is awesome and holy in all his ways and is perfectly righteous and true. He has made me to find my highest and best joy in knowing Him.

My Sin – But I have failed to love, admire and worship God as he deserves. I have pursued my joy and pleasure in lesser, created things. I have been ungrateful and rebellious, seeking my own way rather than his and honoring my own will and plans over his. For this ingratitude, rebellion, dishonor and foolishness I deserve a punishment that will never end. This is a punishment that I can never satisfy or pay because I have sinned against an infinitely worthy Creator. I could not save myself or do anything that would earn God's love because I was enslaved to sin and helplessly under its power.

Christ – However, what I could not do, God did – and in doing it, he did it all, sending his own Son into the world to die on the cross for my sins, thereby showing me unfathomable love. God loved me so much that he was willing to punish his own Son in my place, and even more amazingly, his Son was willing to suffer his Father's wrath in my place. Jesus loved me so much that he was willing to lay down his life for me. No one could ever love me more or better than Jesus. On the third day after Jesus' death, God raised him from the dead, thereby announcing that his death was completely sufficient to atone for every sin that I have or will commit throughout my lifetime. God then

exalted Christ to his own right hand, where Christ now reigns from on high, granting salvation and forgiveness to all who call on him by faith.

My Salvation – When calling on Christ in faith God instantly grants me salvation and forgiveness of all my sin – past, present and future! God makes me his own child and a permanent citizen of his kingdom. Through Christ I am declared free from the punishment my sin deserves because he took all my punishment on the cross. Because I have been given God's Holy Spirit I am freed to turn from my sin and no longer live under its power. Because of Christ's life and work on my behalf God always looks upon me and treats me with gracious favor, always working all things together for my ultimate and eternal good. I can still sin, but when I sin, God feels no wrath in his heart against me. His heart is filled with nothing but love for me, and he longs for me to repent and confess my sins to him, so that he might show me the gracious and forgiving love that has been in his heart all along. I don't deserve any of this, even on my best day, but this is my salvation and herein I stand.