

Final Words

Endurance

2 Timothy 2:8-13

September 30, 2018 pm

HDBC

Having set before Timothy some metaphors which illustrate the way in which he was to live Paul then shared some of the key ingredients to effective discipleship. These are both instructive and motivational.

Verse 7 is transitional. *Consider what I say*. Give careful thought to it. Paul wants Timothy to really think through what he is now writing him. The promise is that the Lord will provide divine understanding.

There is the great balance between divine illumination and human study. Timothy was to exert some thought and effort, and then rely on God to guide his thoughts. It takes both. I can't get it alone. But neither do I go into office close the door and wait for God to pour it in.

1. **A Person to Remember (8)** (4 things)

A. **His Name**

1:1, 2, 9, 10, 13, 2:1,3 all **Christ Jesus**. Here the order is reversed. Must be a reason. Examine the meaning of the words.

Jesus - The personal name for God's son. Speaks of his humanity.

Christ - Messiah - Anointed One. Speaks of His divinity.

Normally Paul puts **Christ** first to highlight and emphasize the deity of Christ. But here he emphasizes the humanity. Paul wants to remind Timothy that the humanity of Jesus was real.

B. **His Resurrection**

risen from the dead - The sufferings of Christ were only for a season. Jesus suffered on the cross, he experienced human death, but did not stay in that condition. He was resurrected.

He broke the chains of death and lives today. Timothy was to remember the humanity and suffering of Jesus, but not to dwell on it. The resurrected Christ is living in us.

C. His Heritage

descendant of David - clear reference to the messiahship of Jesus. Reminder of the faithfulness of God. He said David would be the father of the Messiah. And so it came to be. God is faithful to do what He says.

D. His Gospel

Gospel - Good news.

The death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It was the foundation and heart of Paul's message. It was the driving force of his life. It was the one truth that changed his life.

Remember Jesus Christ!

That's the most important need of our day.

To look to Him. He is our Lord, hope, life.

2. A Persecution to Endure (9)

Paul now offers a personal testimony to the persecution and suffering that come when one lives a life completely dedicated to Jesus. Jesus made that clear. All who serve Him passionately and fearlessly will suffer persecution. Every generation of believers has its share of martyrs.

Paul was in prison like a common criminal. He was headed for martyrdom and knew it. But he saw that as part and parcel with being a follower of Jesus. He, as much as anyone knew what he was facing. He had been on the other side. He was one who did the persecuting. Now was the recipient.

3. A Power to Unleash (9)

Great declaration of freedom! I may be in chains, but the Word of God cannot be bound. It cannot be tamed.

Well-trained firemen with the right equipment can bring a raging fire under control and prevent its spread. **Powerful animals** can be brought under control and tamed. **Nuclear power** has been harnessed and used by man.

But nothing can harness the Word of God. It can never be imprisoned. It is not bound by any limitations. It is free and powerful. The Word can penetrate the darkest night, the deepest hurt, the hardest heart and accomplish its work. It's penetrates government offices, state prisons, school classrooms, athletic facilities, office suites and college dormitories.

Though the messenger may be bound, the Word is free to continue its work. It's life-changing energy can never be bottled up.

4. **A Purpose that Motivates (10)**

What was it that motivated Paul to endure the hardship? It was the knowledge that there was a great purpose. That was the fulfillment of God's desire and plan to save the lost.

Paul saw his sufferings as tightly tied to the salvation of others. He suffered for the sake of the gospel. Result was that others came to know Christ. His imprisonment not only did not hinder the spread of the gospel, but enhanced it. His suffering was a part of the fulfillment of the master plan. Wanted Timothy to catch that same vision.

5. **A Promise of Faithfulness (11-13)**

Four conditional statements. Two negative, two positive. Christ has promised a response to those who are faithful and to those who reject Him. In both situations, He is true to His word. *Let's Look at the Positive First*

1) **Death**

What does it mean to *die with Him*? Could be a reference to salvation, in which we die to self and are born again in Christ. But, in context it probably refers to martyrdom.

Death is not an end, but only a doorway into eternal state with Christ. Remember that Paul was facing the executioners ax. He was aware that they could kill his body, but not his soul.

2) **Endurance**

To persevere in the midst of trials without losing faith. Hanging on to faith no matter how difficult it becomes. The suffering will last only a season.

After that there will be a reward. Thinking of **1 Peter 5:8-10** Read it! God sees the trouble you are enduring. He is waiting on the other side to offer you a place of honored service in His kingdom.

Now let's look at the negative:

3) Denial

Proper response in each of the above. Would expect nothing less. This third statement is sobering. The one who rejects Christ, will, himself be rejected by Christ. Jesus made this clear.

Matthew 10:33 But whoever will deny me before men, I will also deny him before my father who is in heaven.

Luke 9:24 For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake, he is the one who shall be saved.

Salvation is not forced on anyone. Each person must decide if they will accept or reject God's gift of salvation. Receive it voluntarily by an act of faith. Trusting Christ with all your life, past, present and future.

God has done all that needs to be done for you to go to Heaven. If you say "no" to him, He will one day say "no" to you. One day you will stand before Him and will desire to escape Hell. But at that time He will say "no, I never knew you."

4) Faithless

On the surface, this seems like a positive, reassuring statement. Even if I am unfaithful to Him, He is faithful to me and will make it all right. But is that what it really says?

It does not say, "If I am faithless, He is faithful to me." The point of the text is that He is faithful **to his word**. He cannot deny Himself. Even though I cannot be depended upon, my word fails, I do not always do what is right, He is faithful. He will never go back on His word.

Literally, though I am not faithful to Him, He is faithful to His word. He will carry out what He said He would do. My failure to accept His free gift will not lead to any failure on His part. Though I have failed to live up to my potential in receiving salvation, He will never come short of His statement.

If I reject Him and His word, He will still be true to His word. My unfaithfulness to His word, does not impact His faithfulness to His word.

It is the faithfulness of Christ that enables us to endure in the face of adversity and persecution. He is dependable.

While the Christian road is hard and sometimes painful, it leads to a wonderful destination that is promised by our faithful Lord.

This is a call for Endurance.

The market for stylish workout apparel had blossomed in the last decade. Grew 5 % from 2009 – 2014 when it reached \$68 billion. It was expected to reach \$100 billion by 2016. I suspect that it did.

But there's a strange twist in this growth of athleisure. Most people are just wearing it, not actually working out in it according to a NY Times article. "For many wearers, the athletic part of athleisure remains aspirational. [For example], sales of yoga clothes increased 10 times as much as [actual] participation in yoga classes over the 2009 to 2014 span."

Apparently we like the workout look; we just don't like the workout lifestyle or the workout practices.