

Subject: *Remember the Gospel*

Scripture: *2 Timothy 2:8-13*

We must remember things that are really important, and nothing is more important than the Gospel of Christ. From the beginning of this letter Paul wanted Timothy to remember the important things:

- He reminded Timothy of his godly upbringing
- He reminded him of his childhood faith in Christ
- He reminded him of God's gift inside him and the need to stir it up
- He reminded him that God had given him the spirit of power, love, and a sound mind
- He reminded him not to be ashamed of the Gospel message or of Paul the messenger
- He reminded him of the God's grace in calling and saving him
- He reminded him of Christ's appearing to defeat death and give everlasting life
- He reminded him of the privilege and responsibility of being entrusted with the Gospel
- He reminded him of the source of his spiritual strength
- He reminded him to be strong like a faithful teacher, soldier, athlete, and farmer

Then Paul reminded Timothy of the greatest truth of all, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

REMEMBER THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL (vs. 8)

The Gospel is primarily the truth about Jesus Christ, ***1 Corinthians 15:3-4***³ *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*⁴ *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.*

Jesus was both man and God. He did what He did because He is who He is. He lived a perfect life, died for our sins on the cross, and then rose again the third day. We speak more about the plan of salvation, but for Paul it was all about the man of salvation. In Acts 9 we have the story of Paul's salvation. Paul (at that time Saul) had a personal encounter with Christ and Paul asked two questions: "Who are you, Lord?" and "What will you have me to do?" In that same chapter we are told that Paul started preaching: ***Acts 9:20*** *And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.*

- **Christ's humanity** ("of the seed of David") – He was born as a descendent of David. One of Messiah's titles was "the Son of David."
- **Christ's deity** ("raised from the dead") – The tense of the verb "raised" describes something that happened in the past with continuing results. Jesus was raised, and that changes everything. Believers don't just remember the fact of His resurrection, we live in the power of His presence. He was raised for us and lives in us.
- **Paul calls it "my gospel"** – The word "gospel" means good news. Paul said it was his gospel because he believed it, treasured it, defended it, preached it and shared it everywhere he went. To Paul the Gospel was personal and powerful.

Galatians 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

REMEMBER THE TROUBLE OF THE GOSPEL (vs. 9)

Paul suffered trouble all because of the Gospel. People considered him a law breaker and an evildoer. He was a prisoner of Rome at the time. This was his second imprisonment in Rome and this was the worst of all. Let's look back at the story of Paul's trouble as a prisoner.

- Paul knew that he would be a prisoner (Acts 20:22-24; 21:10-14)
- Paul was arrested and imprisoned by the Jews (Acts 21:30-36)
- Paul was a prisoner of Rome (Acts 28:17-22)
- Paul was imprisoned a second time at Rome (2 Tim. 1:8, 16-17; 2:9)

It may seem strange that the Roman Empire, although they were a cruel government, would hold Paul as a prisoner. What had he done wrong? Why was he considered a threat? Rome kept Paul and other Christians in prison, tortured, and killed them for two reasons:

- Christians were considered members of an illegal association

Rome tried to keep tight controls on all social groups within the Empire. At that time many associations were formed: dinner clubs, charity groups, burial societies. All of these groups had to receive special permission from the emperor to meet. Christians were considered illegal and met without government approval. They were looked on with suspicion.

- Christians were blamed for setting Rome on fire

In 64 A.D., Rome burned and Nero looked for a scapegoat. He blamed the Christians. Paul was not only a Christian, but he was a leader of the Christians. All Christians may not suffer like Paul, but all will suffer. **2 Timothy 3:12** *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

REMEMBER THE TRIUMPH OF THE GOSPEL (vs. 10-13)

Paul was in bonds, but God's Word was not bound. You can chain the preacher, but you can't chain the truth he preaches. You can lock up the missionary, but you can't lock up the message.

- Paul was confident about evangelistic blessing (vs. 10)

He was willing to suffer to get the Gospel to lost people because he knew God would use the Gospel to save the lost. God would call His people to him. The Bible teaches that believers are saved and chosen (elect) by God, but it also teaches that people are saved by hearing and believing the Gospel. The Bible teaches the God's sovereignty and man's responsibility. Man is responsible to preach and share the Gospel and to believe and obey it. Paul was committed to do his work because he knew God was committed to do His.

- Paul was confident about eternal blessing (vs. 11-12)

This was a faithful saying or a trustworthy statement. Paul uses this phrase five times in the Pastoral Epistles. This was used to introduce a statement that was commonly known and believed as absolute truth. If we die with Christ, we will also live with Him. If we suffer with Him, we will also reign with Him. The flip side of this is also true. If we deny Him, He will deny us. If we are not faithful, still yet He is faithful. This speaks of someone who completely denies the Lord and turns away from Him once and for all.