



## 2 Timothy 2:8-13 – The Reward Is Worth The Sacrifice

February 14, 2021

### When we face suffering or shame for telling people the good new of Jesus, what do we need to remember?

#### 1. Remember the identity of the Jesus we serve.

*Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, 2 Timothy 2:8 (ESV)*

*...serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 20:19-21 (ESV)*

*And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. Acts 10:42 (ESV)*

#### A. If Jesus suffered to share the gospel, we can expect to suffer when we share the gospel.

*"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household." Matthew 10:24-25 (ESV)*

#### B. Jesus models for us how to handle suffering for the gospel.

1. **Remember the identity of the one we represent.** We represent the most amazing person in the universe, the one who completely forgives us and offers eternal life. We should not be ashamed to tell others what Jesus has done for us but see ourselves as privileged.
2. **Remember the power of the Word of God we share.** No matter what is done to us, nothing can not stop the power of the gospel message to change lives.
3. **Remember the significance of the task God has given.** We have the privilege of being the instruments God uses to share the gospel message to activate His plan to save the elect. What can we do that is more important than being the instrument God uses to save lives?
4. **Remember the reward God promises to give.** If we die for Christ, remember we will live with Christ. If we suffer for Christ, remember that one day we will reign with Christ.

#### Life Group Questions

1. Review your sermon notes and the above outline. What stood out in this message? What did you learn that you didn't know?
2. At CrossWinds, we are reaching people with Jesus. To reach people with Jesus, we must tell them the Good News of Jesus and how Jesus changed our life. What about this study encouraged you to be bolder and bring up the story of Jesus more frequently in your conversations?
3. Why should we always expect to face rejection, alienation, loss of friends, or even physical persecution when we bring up the topic of Jesus around people who don't know Him (see 2 Timothy 3:12)? What do 1 Peter 2:21-24 and Hebrews 12:2 teach us about how to endure suffering because we speak about Jesus?
4. How does understanding the doctrine of election fuel your desire to share the gospel? How does the doctrine of election take away the fear of not being able to share the gospel as well as others?
5. Read 2 Timothy 2:11-13. Why is God's unchanging nature both a comfort and a warning?
6. Under pressure, Peter denied Jesus three times (Mark 14:66-72). Peter repented of his denial and in John 21:15-20, Jesus forgave and restored him. Jesus used Peter as the leader of the early church. How does Peter's failure, repentance, and Jesus' restoration of him change the way you look at your failures? How does Peter's life help you understand Jesus' desire to forgive us, restore us, and give us a future?

*For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 1 Peter 2:21 (ESV)*

*He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 1 Peter 2:22–23 (ESV)*

*...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)*

## **2. Remember the life-changing power of the gospel message.**

*...for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! 2 Timothy 2:9 (ESV)*

## **3. Remember the significance of the task God gave.**

*Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. 2 Timothy 2:10 (ESV)*

*And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.” And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. Acts 18:9–11 (ESV)*

## **4. Remember the reward God promises.**

*The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself. 2 Timothy 2:11–13 (ESV)*

### **A. If we die with Jesus, we will live with Jesus.**

*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. Philippians 1:21–23 (ESV)*

*And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Acts 7:59 (ESV)*

### **B. If we suffer like Jesus, we will reign with Jesus.**

*Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. Hebrews 3:12 (ESV)*

### **C. If deny Jesus, He will deny us.**

*So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 10:32–33 (ESV)*

### **D. If we are faithless to Jesus, He will remain faithful to His word.**

*...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,... 2 Thessalonians 1:7–9 (ESV)*

## **Conclusion**

**When we share the gospel, remember the reward in front of us is better than any suffering experienced by us.**