

2 Timothy
Last Words; Lasting Words
The Faithfulness of Jesus
2 Timothy 2:8-13

Sermon Notes

A Theology of Glory: A theology of glory presupposes that I can achieve glory (salvation) by my good works. "A theology of glory expects total success, finding all the answers, winning all the battles, and living happily ever after. The theology of glory is all about my strength, my power, and my works." (Gene Veith)

A Theology of the Cross: Our sin has separated us from God. Since we can never undo the wrong we have done, and since our very nature is sinful from birth, it is impossible to reach God through our own efforts. Because he loved us, God made a way for us to live with him eternally by sending his Son to live the life we could not live and die the death that we deserved. God meets us, in Jesus, at the cross. The life we live as followers of Jesus is a cross-centered life – we are dead to self and alive to God.

Thomas Oden Only if Christ is human can he feel our infirmities. Only if Christ is God does his death have atoning value for all humanity.

Thomas Oden We should not be surprised if the best human actions are given the worst treatment in a sinful world. It was the best of all causes for which Paul wore fetters like a criminal (v. 9).

Robert Yarborough The fact that God elects (chooses) recipients of his covenant blessing (Deuteronomy 7:6; Jeremiah 3:14; John 15:16; Romans 9:11; 11:2; 2 Peter 1:10) works together with the offer of salvation to all who believe (John 3:16; Romans 9:33; 1 Timothy 2:4; 1 Peter 2:6). **See verses below in Scripture section**

From the sermon – about 1 Timothy 2:11-13

Verse 11 could be referring to our identity in Christ where, in God's eyes, we died with Christ when we repented of our sins and because Jesus rose from the dead, we live in him with resurrection power. Romans 6 is all about this truth. Paul could be using this creed, though, to say that if we die because of our faith in Christ, we will live with him in eternity because, as we have already seen in 1 Timothy, God has raised Jesus from the dead. In other words, this might be encouragement to endure

suffering. When you look at it this second way, the first line of verse 12 fits perfectly – if we endure with him, we will also reign with him. Praise the Lord, it will not always be like this! No matter which way this is interpreted, it reminds us that we are to die to self and live for Jesus.

The last phrase of verse 12 is sobering: “If we deny him, he also will deny us.” This is, no doubt, somewhat of a warning to Timothy. At the very least, this was motivation to stay strong in his proclamation of Jesus. The point was not that if you deny Christ in a moment of fear or wrong belief you can never be forgiven. Peter denied Jesus – how many times? Peter denied knowing Jesus three times on the night Jesus was arrested. Later, Peter’s behavior at Antioch in Syria when he sided with legalizers over Gentile believers would come close to a denial of the gospel. Yet, Peter was forgiven.

Do I believe in eternal security? Absolutely! The Scripture is full of the truth of the security of one’s salvation whose faith is in Jesus. Such a life, though, will display some semblance of godliness and commitment to the Lord. I am not sure there is any comfort for anyone whose profession does not affect his/her life at all. What about someone who used to walk with the Lord but now just doesn’t seem interested? It is not that they publicly deny Jesus, but there is no trace of Christian commitment in his/her life. Is that not a denial of God’s power and presence? The truth from Hebrews is seen everywhere in the NT: “Do not walk away from Jesus, because you do so at the peril of your eternal soul.” The latter half of verse 12 has this feel.

Verse 13 is a verse about which some of you have likely wondered: “if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.”

Yet again, this could mean one of two things. First, if we falter, he is not going anywhere. Or, second, if we turn away from him, it does not affect God, or God’s plan. It is impossible for God’s character to change. We can all be glad of that! God does not change with the times, nor does he change his plan because of our unfaithfulness.

So, which is it? I know what I want it to be. If fear overwhelms me and I deny him momentarily, I do hope he will forgive me and hold on to me. This view is surely affirmed in other passages in Scripture. In context, though, it is likely that by using this creed Paul was implying, “regardless of what you do, Timothy, God is going to be faithful to his plan, but it would be best for you to continue to confess Jesus, regardless of your circumstances.”

Application points from the Sermon

1. Remember Jesus; live with gratitude for his willingness to suffer for you
2. Suffer well; know that you are exactly where God wants you to be in his plan
3. Endure so that you might reign with Jesus; live with eternity in view

Scripture Associated with the Sermon

Luke 9:23 And he (Jesus) said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. 25 For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? 26 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. 27 But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.”

1 Timothy 1:15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 9 For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Genesis 3:14 The Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,

cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

**15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”**

2 Timothy 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, 9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, 10 and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11 for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, 12 which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.

The Texts about Election and Choice

God chooses:

Deuteronomy 7:6 For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Jeremiah 3:14 Return, O faithless children,
declares the Lord;

for I am your master;
I will take you, one from a city and two from a family,
and I will bring you to Zion.

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

Romans 9:11 And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, 11 though they were not yet born and had done nothing

either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls.

Romans 11:7 What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, 8 as it is written,

“God gave them a spirit of stupor,
eyes that would not see
and ears that would not hear,
down to this very day.”

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

2 Peter 1:10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

We choose:

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Romans 9:33 As it is written,

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

1 Timothy 2:3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Peter 2:6 For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

1 Peter 1:3-12 – a “commentary” on our text, 1 Timothy 2:8-10:

What to look for in 1 Peter 1:3-12

- 1) The salvation that is ours in Christ
- 2) The role of suffering in the believer’s life
- 3) The continuity of God’s plan through the ages

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Romans 6:5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.