



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST!—2 TIMOTHY 2:8

WYOMING

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The Christian can be certain that after the effort of this life there come the joy of heaven; and the greater the struggle, the greater the joy.¹ We must be single-minded in our devotion to Christ like a soldier who only wants to please his commander, disciplined as an athlete and labor like a hard working farmer. Live like this and you will have what's needed to be strong in grace guarding the treasure, disciplined through challenges, diligent throughout hardships and invested in lives for eternity's sake.²

I. REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST! – 2 TIMOTHY 2:8

2 Timothy 2:8 - "Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel..."

Paul's appeals to Timothy; remain strong in your faith, do the work of ministry, and proclaim the gospel as a good soldier, disciplined athlete and hardworking farmer. There will always be opposition to Jesus Christ and Satan will make sure hardship follows faithfulness. Faithful service has always been costly, but we must remain strong in the grace found in Jesus our Lord. Now, Paul makes his greatest appeal to Timothy which can enable him to remain faithful...

"Remember Jesus Christ."

The motivation for Paul's ministry always focused on Jesus Christ and the preeminence of Christ was the driving force behind his life and work.

"Remember" Greek **"mnemoneuo"** imperative verb, keep always in your memory, continuous command.

Paul was saying to Timothy, "Keep the awareness of Christ on the forefront of your thinking." Keep on remembering Jesus Christ. He is the supreme example of all Paul has taught and Timothy must follow Jesus' example in suffering, persevering and proclaiming the gospel all for the sake of the harvest! We must never lose sight of Whom we are serving. We are not serving a program, a project or personal ambitions. We are serving Jesus Christ and we must always be looking to Him. The writer of Hebrews understood this well writing in Hebrews 12:1-2, "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus the Author and Perfector of faith Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Paul emphasizes that we must stay fixed and focused on Jesus Christ. It is so necessary, so vital, that Paul commands Timothy to remember Jesus Christ, to always keep Him in the forefront of our

thinking. We forget, we become consumed, we become disillusioned and discouraged. But we must remember Jesus Christ our greatest example, our prize, our pursuit, our joy, our all. Jesus Christ is our greatest inspiration for faithfulness! *We must remember Jesus Christ!*

A. SON OF GOD—"RISEN FROM THE DEAD" - 2 TIMOTHY 2:8B

Paul has some specific truths for Timothy and all believers to remember when it comes to Jesus Christ. First, that He is "risen from the dead." Literally, Paul wrote, "raised from among the dead." In the Greek this was written in the perfect tense meaning Christ was raised and still is raised from the dead. Paul wasn't referring to one act in time but a continual state that lasts forever. Paul is not speaking of remembering the resurrection, as important as that is, but remembering Jesus Christ, the Son of God Who is alive because of the resurrection. We don't serve a past event or a historical person. We serve a risen, living Savior!³ If the crucifixion had ended the story of Jesus, the victory would have been with men and the powers of darkness in this world. Writing in 1 Corinthians 15:14, Paul would testify, "if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain." Yet, the last word is never with man, but with God as the resurrection would testify. The gospel is the good news precisely because it is the supernatural power of God manifested in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ Who is living. This is the historical reality. Now, the present reality is understanding the power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is the same power that is at work in our hearts.⁴

Jesus Christ is not just a historical reality, but a present truth. We serve a risen Savior. He is no longer dead but alive and thus must have first place in everything! Colossians 1:18 says, "...and He is the beginning the first-born (meaning preeminent) from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything." Paul would also write in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." It's of first importance, of preeminence, because if Christ isn't risen from the dead, our faith is "vain" and "worthless" (1 Cor. 15:14, 17). Paul is saying to remember your risen and ever present Lord. We do not depend on a memory but enjoy the reality of the power of the presence of Christ!⁵ Jesus is a present reality in our life.

We remember Jesus! He is the Son of God, He is Savior and Lord. Without His resurrection, the gospel is empty, worthless and vain. But, through His death and resurrection, Jesus broke the shackles of sin and its' wages which were death; the greatest weapons of Satan.

BIBLE STUDY

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR, STAFF & SPOUSES: WEDNESDAY AT 6:30AM, BREAKFAST SERVED

WYOMING STATE CAPITOL, HERSCHLER BUILDING COMMONS AREA

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REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST!—2 TIMOTHY 2:8

“Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel...”

When we repent of those sins and trust in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, He breaks the power of sin, death and Satan and sets us free when no one else could. He gives us new life, eternal life. How could we but not love and serve Him in return.⁶

Remember Jesus Christ...He is the Son of God, risen from the dead!

B. SON OF MAN—“DESCENDANT OF DAVID” — 2 TIMOTHY 2:8C

Next, Paul remind Timothy that Jesus Christ was not just the Son of God, but the Son of Man as well. He was perfect in His divinity as the risen and ascended Lord and perfect in His humanity as a descendant from the line of King David. Hebrews 2:14, 18 speaks to Jesus as a descendant of David. Luke 1 confirms His lineage from the royal line of David. Even in Revelation 22:16, Jesus spoke to John referring to Himself as the “*root and offspring of David.*”⁷ Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s Messianic promises in the Old Testament.

Philippians 2:5-7 further sheds light on this truth, “*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, Who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant and being made in the likeness of men.*” Here Paul specifically chooses a Greek word that emphasizes the essence of a person’s nature, “*form*”, the unchanging character of something. Paul emphatically makes the point that Jesus Christ’s nature is the exact, unchanging essence and character of God. He is 100% God and this emphasizes His Deity. So Paul states that Christ was equal with God in essence and character, and he also teaches that Jesus is also equal with God positionally. John 10:30 says, “*I and the Father are one.*” From all eternity, Christ as the Son of God was positionally equal with His Father. But Christ, “*did not consider*” this position something that He had to hold on to in His incarnate body. Christ loved us so much that He was willing to relinquish His positional equality with God; the comforts and joys of heaven, to humble Himself in His humanity yet never losing His Deity as God. Jesus Christ came to this earth as 100% God, and 100% man.

Jesus lived a human, earthly life with all its struggles, pressures and temptations. He identified with our humanity by coming as a man and as a result, knows and understands us. Jesus identified with us personally...with fallen man. Therefore He can understand and sympathize with all our hopes and fears, longings and aspirations, failures and pain and He still loves us. Hebrews 4:15 makes this clear, “*For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One Who has been tempted in all things as without sin.*” He understands what we are going through and assures us that we will never be tempted beyond what we are able. (1 Corinthians 10:13) He alone as God can empathize with our struggles and give us what we need to help. (Hebrews 4:16)

Remember Jesus Christ...He is the Son of Man, descendant of David!

C. “MY GOSPEL” — 2 TIMOTHY 2:8D

What’s the gospel? 2 Timothy 2:8 reveals the heart of the gospel! There are many other element of course, but Jesus Christ as the Son of God declared by His resurrection and Jesus Christ as the Son of Man in His Incarnation is the gospel in shorthand. Romans 1:1-4 essentially says the same thing, “*Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord.*” Jesus Christ is the predicted, long awaited Messiah and has been raised from the dead and ever lives. As Messiah He fulfills the cascade of Old Testament Messianic prophecy and is King of kings and Lord of lords. As the resurrected Lord, all authority in heaven and earth is His. He is the Victor and all powerful.⁸ (Matthew 28:18)

The gospel is the good news of the divinely revealed message of Jesus Christ. Paul invites Timothy to courageous action and calls him to take this gospel to the world! As we remember Jesus Christ the Son of God risen from the dead and the Son of Man descendant of David, may we have the same unshakable confidence in Christ and willingness to suffer for His sake. By these truths people are saved and reconciled to God. The world desperately needs to know Jesus Christ.

Are we willing to put everything on the line for Christ? Is there enough reason to do so? No sacrifice, mockery, alienation, rejection, desertion, imprisonment or even death is too high a price to pay. The importance and the rewards of a faithful life and ministry, not to mention the honor and glory of the Lord we trust and serve far outweigh any personal sacrifice our trust and service may require.⁹ *Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David! This is my gospel...this is your gospel to the world!*

¹Barclay, William, *The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 1956, revised 1975 and 2003. Pg.183.

²Hughes, R. Kent and Chapell, Bryan, *1 and 2 Timothy and Titus; To Guard the Deposit*. Crossway Books: Wheaton, Illinois, 2000. Pg. 197.

³MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.56.

⁴Williams, Peter, *Opening Up 2 Timothy*. One Day Publications: Ryelands Road, Leominster, New Zealand, 2007. Pg. 48-49.

⁵Barclay, William, *The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 1956, revised 1975 and 2003. Pg.184.

⁶MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.57.

⁷MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.57.

⁸Hughes, R. Kent and Chapell, Bryan, *1 and 2 Timothy and Titus; To Guard the Deposit*. Crossway Books: Wheaton, Illinois, 2000. Pg. 203.

⁹MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.54-55.