



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

“FOR THIS REASON I ENDURE”- 2 TIMOTHY 2:10

WYOMING

MARCH 4, 2015

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God's Word can never be restricted, regulated, or controlled by laws, government or mere man. It is never bound or ineffective. The power of the gospel cannot be restrained by opposition or censure. Nothing can ever keep the Word of God from going forth and accomplishing what God intends. Therefore, if that's true, compromise can never be justified in order to make the message more acceptable and the proclamation of the gospel more effective. The power of God's Word has never been dependent on man's protection of it or subject to man's restrictions of it. God's Word cannot be imprisoned or bound by anyone or anything!

I. “FOR THIS REASON I ENDURE!” - 2 TIMOTHY 2:10

2 Timothy 2:8-10: “(8) Remember Jesus Christ... (9) for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal, but the Word of God is not imprisoned. (10) For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”

As Paul awaits execution in a Roman prison, tortured for his faith, he never dwells on his suffering but mentions it only in light of opportunities for the furtherance of the gospel. And though he sits in chains, he uses those chains to make a distinct contrast between his own imprisonment and the freedom of the Word of God! Because of the unstoppable power of God's Word, this means that it will prevail, accomplishing the work of God in the hearts of all who will be saved and brought to eternal glory. It was necessary for Paul to endure whatever came his way for the Lord's work to be accomplished. Here in these verses all believers are again reminded to be faithful to our calling and endure whatever comes our way.

A. “FOR THIS REASON I ENDURE ALL THINGS” - 2 TIMOTHY 2:10A

Paul knew as a truth, a certainty that though he was bound, God's Word was not. “Therefore” or “For this reason”, Paul knew his suffering was not in vain; for nothing. It would accomplish its eternal work in hearts, bringing salvation to those who would hear, repent and believe by faith in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior and Lord. This gave Paul the incentive to endure. There was a reason and eternal purpose behind the suffering.

Was there a limit to what Paul was willing to go through? After all, up to this point, Paul had suffered so much, “...in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure...” (2 Corinthians 11:23-33)

And Paul would write, “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed but not despairing; persecuted; but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.” (2 Corinthians 4:8-10) Paul would say, “Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.” (2 Corinthians 4:16-17) There was no limit to what Paul would endure... “all things” for the sake of the gospel.

What about you? Paul was prepared to remain firm and persevere because his life's purpose was to share the message of salvation. His endurance required an unrelenting commitment that pressed forward through every hardship. Paul endured because he had a higher agenda. He was not entangled in the affairs of this world but served as a good soldier to the end. Just as Paul, believers must remember the preeminence and presence of Jesus Christ in all things and that the power of the Word of God is always free to do the work of God...it is never bound by anyone or anything.

B. “FOR THE SAKE OF THOSE WHO ARE CHOSEN”-2 TIMOTHY 2:10B

Paul isn't just talking about enduring as a good example. It was more than that to him as we see in this verse. Paul endured for the sake of “those who are chosen”. The “chosen” people are the objects of the affection of God's love through the saving action of Jesus Christ on the cross. It is important to understand Paul is not talking about those who are already believers in Christ, but refers to those who have not yet responded to the saving call of God. These are the ones who have been called by God and set apart for Him. Ephesians 1:4 speaks to the “chosen” as those who are called by God before the world was even created. God sovereignly calls believers by His grace. Salvation isn't earned by any means or work, but is a free gift of His grace. His sovereignty demands their faith to make His gracious calling effective. And even that faith to believe and trust Christ alone is a gift from God as Ephesians 2:8 makes clear. And then, God sovereignly calls all those who are saved to be His witnesses as Christ Himself said in Matthew 28:19-20, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”²

Paul endured for the sake of those who have not yet been saved. This is the greater motive for persevering through hardship and

BIBLE STUDY

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

WYOMING STATE CAPITOL, HERSCHLER BUILDING COMMONS AREA

Wyoming

“FOR THIS REASON I ENDURE”- 2 TIMOTHY 2:10

(9) “for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal, but the Word of God is not imprisoned. (10) For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”

suffering of any kind. Paul was willing to endure anything for the sake of the effectual calling of God in the hearts of His chosen.

C. “THAT THEY MAY OBTAIN THE SALVATION WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS”-2 TIMOTHY 2:10C

The reason for which Paul endured was for the sake of God’s “chosen”. The purpose he endured was in order that the “chosen” would obtain or receive salvation. Paul suffered faithfully because of his love for Christ and because he didn’t want any to perish. Paul’s heart reflected God’s heart as 2 Peter 3:9 says, *“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”*

Paul makes it very clear again in this verse that salvation is found only in Christ Jesus. There are not many roads to heaven. There is but one way and that is by a salvation found in Christ Jesus alone. Acts 4:12 says referring to Jesus, *“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”* There is an urgency in these words. We must be saved! All must be saved, but that can never be apart from faith alone, in Christ alone, by grace alone.

Salvation is entirely the work of God that He invites us to participate in. When we come to Christ, we are called by God to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. Romans 10:13-15 says, *“Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him who they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!’”*

Believers have a call to preach the gospel message boldly and without compromise even if it might mean sacrifice. Paul could preach the good news with assurance because he knew he proclaimed the only true gospel with life changing, saving power. He knew what he was enduring, would in the end have eternal consequences in lives. His suffering was not pointless.

All believers have the privilege of participating in this marvelous work of God as well. But keep in mind, those who avoid proclaiming the gospel for fear of ridicule, loss or sacrifice; lose that privilege and it will be given to others who will faithfully obey the Lord. Paul obeyed and we can do the same. Don’t shrink back from being a part of God’s eternal work; but endure whatever comes for *“the sake of those who are chosen, that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus.”* That was Paul’s exhortation to Timothy. That is God’s exhortation to all believers. We are under the same obligation to preach the gospel whatever hardship it may require.

D. “WITH ETERNAL GLORY.”-2 TIMOTHY 2:10D

With the salvation that is found in Jesus Christ there is the certain promise of “eternal glory” that awaits every believer. Life in heaven forever with God is the believer’s sure hope and destiny. In Romans 8:16-18, Paul writes, *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”*

We can’t begin to imagine what this means, to live forever in the presence of God. Jesus told His disciples before He went to the cross to provide salvation, *“Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going. Thomas said to Him, ‘Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?’”* Jesus said to him, *“I am the way, and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”*

What about you? Salvation is given by God from all eternity, according to God’s purpose and grace. Jesus is the One Who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light when He came to this earth to die on the cross as our substitution in payment for our sins. We can live forever and have eternal life. We can know our eternal destiny is heaven and not hell. That’s how Paul could live through these harsh days because for him, death had been abolished. He would spend eternity in heaven. You too can know what will happen when you die. Turn to God. Agree with Him that you are a sinner and desperately need Him and the salvation He alone can provide. No one can earn that salvation by anything they can do. Only by repenting of your sins and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ alone will you be saved. 2 Corinthians 6:2 says, *“...behold, now is the acceptable time, behold now is the day of salvation.”* Don’t wait.

And if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, we have the privilege of participating in His marvelous work in the hearts of people. But keep in mind, those who avoid proclaiming the gospel for fear of ridicule, loss or sacrifice will lose that privilege and it will be given to others who will faithfully obey the Lord. Are you willing to suffer for the sake of the chosen?

¹MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.58-59.

²MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.62.