

THE Rock COMMUNITY CHURCH

2 Timothy 2:8-13

“Remember Who Jesus Is”

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Anaheim Hills, CA | RockCC.com

20:56

Good morning. You know, I came up here with a question to ask you, but I forget what it was. Now I remember what it was. Here's the question. Do you ever have trouble remembering things? Like, do you ever have trouble remembering people's names or remembering that thing you wanted to get at the grocery store or remembering where you put the car keys when you're holding them in your hand?

21:27

Have you ever started to write yourself a reminder but you couldn't remember what you wanted to remind yourself to do? Yeah, no, me neither. Yeah. Someone once said, the biggest lie I tell myself is, I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it.

21:45

In our passage today, Paul is going to give us an absolutely stunning, amazing, and beautiful reminder that we need to remember. All of us need to remember at all times. Will you pray with me, please?

22:04

Oh, Father, we are just so glad to be in your house today, your house of prayer. And as we come in, Father, we bring our distractions often with us. There are just so many

things competing for our attention all the time. But I pray now, Lord, you'll help us focus on your words just for this next short period of time, because the words you have for us today, they are priceless. They are life -changing. Please give us ears to hear and hearts to receive your truth. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

22:39

We're in 2 Timothy, chapter 2, verses 8 to 13. As you know, Paul is writing this letter while he's locked in chains in a Roman dungeon. He knows guards will eventually come to lead him away to his execution.

22:56

Typically, a man in Paul's situation would write a pretty grim and hopeless letter, right? But Paul is full of hope. Why? Because Paul knows. Paul knows Almighty God is at work in his circumstances. So even on death row in a dungeon, Paul can patiently endure as he gives Timothy and you and me this amazing reminder.

23:27

Let's read it together. 2 Timothy 2, verses 8 to 13. Remember, Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, has preached in my gospel for which I am suffering bound with chains as a criminal.

23:41

But the word of God is not bound. 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. The saying is trustworthy.

23:57

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 will also deny us. If we are faithless, he remains faithful for he cannot deny himself.

24:15

Last week, we saw Paul encourage Timothy to find the strength he needs for every situation in the grace and faithfulness of God. It is God's plan for our lives is not. God's plan for us is not for us to go through the trials and troubles of life on our own.

24:37

God's plan for us is that we go through everything step by step with him and we rely on his power. Today in our passage, Paul encourages Timothy to always remember the most important thing we should never forget.

24:54

Let's look at verse eight. Remember Jesus Christ risen from the dead. The offspring of David has preached in my gospel. On the surface, we might wonder why Paul is giving Timothy this reminder. Does Paul think Pastor Timothy has forgotten what Jesus did on Easter Sunday?

25:20

Well, Paul knows Timothy is struggling with a lot of challenges in his church and in his life. So Paul is urging Timothy to always keep the essential and unique truth about who Jesus is. Always keep that at the front of his mind and in the forefront of his preaching, just like Paul always did.

25:42

In Paul's day, just like in ours, there are all kinds of opinions and ideas about who Jesus is. But... The resurrection of Jesus proves who He is. It proves His identity and His authority as our Savior God.

26:04

When Jesus was on the cross, many onlookers thought they were watching a criminal and a blasphemer die. But what they were actually seeing is the only sinless man in the history of the world, the Son of God, giving His life as the perfect and only sacrifice God

the Father will accept for the payment of the sins of every single person who trusts in His Son for their salvation.

26:34

Jesus' death on the cross was the payment for your sins and my sins, and the resurrection, His resurrection from the tomb was the receipt. It was the proof that God the Father accepted Jesus' payment in full on our behalf.

26:54

Jesus' resurrection from the dead guarantees our resurrection from the dead. Jesus' victory over sin and death guarantees our victory over sin and death when we trust in Jesus alone for our salvation.

27:12

We face so many uncertainties in life, don't we? We face so many uncertainties in our lives, but in the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have the absolute certainty of God's love for us every second of every day forever.

27:33

And, in the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have the absolute certainty all our sins are forgiven, all of them, even the bad ones. They're forgiven, and we can look forward to a glorious everlasting life.

27:49

These are the certainties we have as a believer in Christ because of the death and resurrection of our Lord. 1 Corinthians 15 is an amazing chapter in God's word. It is a treasure chest full of valuable insight into the meaning of Jesus' resurrection.

28:05

I highly, highly recommend for you to go home today and read chapter 15 on your own. I promise you'll get extra credit. Read chapter 15. Let's just look at a few passages as a preview. 1 Corinthians 15 verses 3 to 4.

28:20

Paul writes, For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

28:35

The death and resurrection of Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. In fact, there are over 300 prophecies, very specific ones, about the Messiah, that Jesus His birth, His earthly ministry, His death and resurrection fulfilled.

28:55

Some mathematicians have said the probability of even one person fulfilling just a handful of those very specific prophecies would be mathematically improbable, if not impossible. But Jesus fulfilled every single one of them because He is the Messiah.

29:13

He is the Son of God. He is our Savior. Let's look at verse 17 of chapter 15 of 1 Corinthians. And Paul writes, If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. If Jesus died and remained buried in that tomb, it would mean He is not the Messiah.

29:38

He is not the Son of God. It would mean He does not have the power to save us from God's wrath and the eternal punishment for our sin. But, here is what we can celebrate. Jesus did rise. So our faith in Him is not futile.

29:57

It is priceless. It is everything. Thank you. Let's read verses 53 to 57. Paul writes this, that news just keeps getting better. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable and this mortal body must put on immortality.

30:21

When the perishable puts on the imperishable and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written. Death is swallowed up in victory. Oh death, where is your sting?

30:36

Oh death, where is your victory? Oh death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law, but thanks be to God who gives us the victory. How? Through our Lord Jesus Christ.

30:49

Amen. Death is something most people fear their whole lives, right? But when Paul thinks about death, he's full of joy. How is that possible? Paul quotes two Old Testament prophets, Isaiah and Hosea.

31:10

And Paul uses Hosea's words to compare death to a bee whose stinger has been removed. A bee without a stinger is harmless. Right? It's harmless. A bee without a stinger may look scary as it flies towards you.

31:29

Grant that, but once it lands on you and it can't do anything to hurt you, you see you had nothing to be afraid of. Death may look scary, but for those of us who trust in Christ, death is harmless. Nothing to be afraid of.

31:51

Death for the believer in Christ is simply, it's just simply the moment when we stop being mortal and we become gloriously immortal. Think about that. Paul explains the sting of death comes from sin and the law of God tells us our sin brings God's wrath and eternal punishment.

32:17

But thanks be to God because sin was conquered by Jesus's death and death was conquered by Jesus's resurrection. When we trust in Jesus, our sin is removed as far as the east is from the west. And death does not bring God's eternal judgment.

32:38

In Christ, death brings God's eternal reward. It's never heard. This is the greatest news the world has ever heard. How do you top this? This is the greatest news we've ever heard. We always need to remember and not take for granted who Jesus is and what he's done for us.

32:58

And we need to share the news with others. Let's go back to verse eight, 2 Timothy. Paul writes, remember Jesus Christ risen from the dead and then he adds the words, the offspring of David has preached in my gospel.

33:14

There are 17 verses in the New Testament that describe Jesus as the offspring, or the son, of David. David lived about a thousand years before Jesus was born and God promised David that the Messiah would come through his line.

33:30

People in Paul's day were very, very familiar with this title because they knew the offspring or the son of David is a messianic title. This title emphasizes Jesus's humanity as the God man and it reminds us that God's plan for our salvation did not begin when Jesus was born.

33:50

Did not begin in Bethlehem. God's plan for our salvation began in eternity past. And the promise of salvation through the Messiah is on every page of the Old Testament starting way back at the beginning in the Garden of Eden when the earth was brand new and there were only two people living in the whole world.

34:10

Did you notice at the end of our passage that Paul refers to the gospel as my gospel? Paul is not saying, it's important for us to understand, Paul is not saying that he has his own version of the gospel.

34:25

That's not what he's saying. Paul is saying that he received the gospel directly from Jesus. Let's look at Galatians chapter one verses 11 to 12 where Paul explains this. We've turned to this before but it's good to see again.

34:37

Paul writes, I would have you know brothers that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel for I did not receive it from any man nor was I taught it but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

34:51

Paul's gospel is not different from the gospel proclaimed by the Old Testament writers and by the other apostles and by Jesus himself. And here's the thing about Paul. Paul not only believes the gospel and preaches the gospel.

35:10

He's also willing to suffer for the gospel as he explains in our next verse. Let's look at verse nine. For which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal but the word of God is not bound. I love this verse.

35:28

Absolutely, I love this verse. Paul finds himself being treated like a criminal. Jesus was treated like a criminal too, wasn't he? But just as death could not hold Jesus in that tomb, the word of God cannot be held in that prison.

35:46

Paul is chained in a dungeon and as we've been talking about that dungeon is built inside a sewer. Paul had to be cold, hungry, filthy, and miserable. No wonder Paul says clearly he's suffering. But what else does he say?

36:06

He says he's suffering. What does he say right after that? Paul says the chains, those chains around his wrist or ankles can only limit his freedom, but cannot limit the power of God's word.

36:22

Wow, what a reality. We can find ourselves bound in chains too, can't we? Probably not chains in a prison dungeon, but how about chains of suffering with illness or financial stress or temptation or grief or many other things?

36:47

The Bible tells us God is always at work in our circumstances for our good, even in our chains. God is at work. And when we read His Word, when we read it, and we believe it, and we obey it, and when we share it with others, there is no limit to what God can do even when we're in chains.

37:12

There's no limit. Let's look at something Jesus said in John chapter 8 verses 31 to 32. So Jesus said to the Jews, you have believed in Him, if you abide in My Word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth.

37:32

And what will the truth do? Set you free, even in chains, set you free. The Word of God is never bound or limited by our circumstances or by our chains, unless we allow it. The only thing that can stop the power of God's Word in our lives is the hardness of our own hearts.

38:06

Let's turn to Hebrews chapter 3 verse 12. The writer of Hebrews says, take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart leading you to fall away from the living God. You and I can limit or block the power of God's Word in our lives when we harden our hearts against Him in disbelief or in rebellion or in bitterness over our circumstances.

38:42

Let's look at verse 10 of our passage, 2 Timothy 2:10. Paul writes, because of the power of God's Word, 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.

39:02

Because the power of God's Word is unlimited in what it can do in the lives of all who believe it, Paul is willing to endure anything and everything to share God's Word with as many people as he possibly can.

39:16

Do you see what Paul is saying here? This might truly confuse you, because Paul doesn't seem to be thinking right at all. Paul's highest priority in life is not to be comfortable. What? Paul's highest priority in life is not to be comfortable.

39:33

Paul's highest priority in life is to serve God in every circumstance of his life. What a model. What a model for us to follow. Paul says he is willing to persevere for the sake of the elect that they may obtain the salvation that is in Jesus Christ.

39:54

Who are the elect? In the Old Testament the Jews are called God's chosen people, right? Well, in the New Testament God's chosen people are called the elect or the church. The title elect refers to those who have been chosen by God to hear the gospel and respond by putting their faith in Jesus.

40:22

If you have questions about election and free will, I've got some really good news for you. I'm not going to say any more about it, because Pastor Drew already brilliantly covered it in a message he gave just a few months ago.

40:38

So if you go to the RockCC website you can go to the sermon list there and you will find when we started the book of Titus. You will find a message called Introducing Titus. It's from July 2nd. Introducing Titus, July 2nd, and Drew covers it beautifully.

40:55

But there is something else really important we need to see in verse 10. Do you notice Paul the great preacher does not say he preaches everything for the sake of the elect. He says he endures everything for the sake of the elect.

41:12

In other words, Paul's endurance is itself a preaching of the gospel. His endurance is a preaching of the gospel. Paul proclaims Jesus not just with words but with his life. It's like the old saying we've all heard, actions speak louder than words.

41:30

Paul did not just talk about Jesus. He lived for Jesus and Paul was willing to suffer anything and everything so that others might come to know the Savior he loves. At the end of verse 10, Paul states very clearly, just want to make sure we didn't miss it.

41:49

Paul says the salvation is found only in Jesus Christ. There is no other option. There is no one else who can save us. And then Paul adds two words that I'm just delighted he did because they're really exciting.

42:03

You see how he describes eternal life? Calls it eternal glory. Our salvation is eternal glory. Do you know what the word glory means? I can't wait to tell you. It's really good. It means the eternal life God offers us in Christ will be magnificent, wonderful, beautiful, delightful and spectacular in every way imaginable and way beyond anything we can imagine.

42:30

Oh yeah, and it's forever. This is really good news. I'm happy to see so many of you smiling because this should put a smile on your face. Let's finish our passage verses 11 to 13. Paul writes this, the saying is trustworthy, for if we have died with him, we will also live with him.

42:51

If we endure, we will also reign with him. If we deny him, he will also deny us. If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself. Paul quotes these words that probably come from an early church song or hymn that Timothy would know.

43:09

It would be like one of us quoting a song that we sing all the time. The Bible does not tell us what kind of singing voice Paul had, but the Bible does tell us that Paul loves to sing. Let's look at Colossians chapter 3 verse 16.

43:24

Paul wrote this, he said, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

43:39

Think about this with me for just a minute because this is fun. It's really entertaining to think about this. Can you imagine? You are a Roman guard and you are standing watch over the dungeon where Paul is.

43:54

You're stationed at the dungeon above the floor and Paul is down below you in chains in the dungeon. The dungeon, I showed you a picture of this before, that dungeon has no doors and no windows. There's only this hole in the floor at your feet where prisoners were lowered down by rope 12 feet to get down to the dungeon below.

44:13

Imagine you're this Roman guard, you're standing at your post day or night and as you stand there you can hear the voice of Paul coming up through that hole in the floor. It's just rising up through the hole.

44:23

What is he doing? He's singing songs and hymns and spiritual songs with words like this, words like our verse 11. Look at 2 Timothy 2:11. Imagine Paul singing this. Oh, I wish I could sing it for you, but it wouldn't be good.

44:35

But Paul's saying, if we have died with him, we will also live with him. Can you imagine that guard hearing that? I'm sure Paul's saying it in Latin so the guard would understand. Can you imagine a guard being hearing those words coming up from the pit below?

44:51

I wonder, I wonder if there were guards that were saved just from Paul singing while he was in that dungeon. This verse celebrates the fact that Jesus is alive forever and when we die, our bodies do stop working when we die and that's okay because we don't need those bodies anymore because God has a brand new body to give us that will live forever.

45:16

Just before Jesus died, you remember the story of Lazarus when he raised Lazarus from the dead? Just before Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, Jesus made a wonderful promise to Martha, Lazarus's sister.

45:27

Let's look at John 11 verses 25 and 26. Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he died, yet shall he live. And everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

45:46

Do you believe this? That's Jesus's question. Do you believe this? I believe this. Do you believe this? Jesus, when we believe in Jesus, our death in this world just simply marks the moment when we step into heaven and we become more alive than we've ever been on this planet and we will be that way forever.

46:12

Let's look at that song Paul is singing again in verse 11 one more time. Imagine Paul singing, if we have died with him, we will also live with him. This verse also refers to the believer's spiritual participation with Jesus' death and resurrection that we celebrate in baptism, which is a good time to remind you again, we have a baptism class right after this service, and then we have a baptism ceremony October 1st between the services.

46:43

In baptism, we go under the water to identify with Jesus' death and burial, and then we come right back up out of the water to identify with his resurrection. Paul wrote about this in Romans chapter 6 verses 3 to 5.

47:00

Let's read it together, it's really great. Paul wrote, do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death.

47:12

In order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly, certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

47:32

In the death and resurrection of Jesus, do you know what we have? We have a lot to sing about. We have a lot to sing about in a dungeon, and we have a lot to sing about even in the deep waters we go through in our lives.

47:46

We have a lot to sing about. Let's look at the next verse of Paul's song, verse 12, first part. He's down there singing, if we endure, we will also reign with him. Paul is not saying that endurance earns our salvation.

48:04

Paul is simply saying that endurance is a strong indication of the genuineness of our faith. We're willing to sacrifice, we're willing to endure for Jesus. And what is the result of having genuine faith in Jesus?

48:21

What is the result? It's not very exciting. Pretty dull, actually. All we get to do is reign with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords forever in his everlasting kingdom. That's it. That's all. I've got nothing else for you.

48:35

That's it. Endurance is one of the key characteristics of a true believer. Let's look at what Paul wrote to the believers in Rome. Romans 12:12, Paul wrote, rejoice and hope. That's kind of easy. Be patient in tribulation.

48:54

We'll come back to that. Be constant in prayer. The word tribulation. The word tribulation means an oppressive, distressing state of physical, mental, economic, or social affliction and pain. How are we supposed to be patient when we're hurting and we're under great stress?

49:21

How can we be patient when we're in pain and we're under great stress? The answer is we can't. Not on our own. It can't be done. Not on our own. You probably have noticed patience is not a natural human reaction to tribulation.

49:41

But with real faith in the Lord, we can rejoice in the hope we have in Jesus. And we can pray instead of panic. Like sometimes we can pray while we panic. We can. I've done it. We can. And we can endure.

50:00

We can endure with patience because our strength does not come from us. Our strength is coming from God. Let's look at verse 12, second part. Paul is still singing down in the dungeon, singing, if we deny him, he also will deny us.

50:21

This verse is not talking about a temporary wavering of faith like Peter had when he denied Jesus three times. Paul is talking about a permanent, final denial of Christ. What does it mean to deny Jesus?

50:37

Deny Jesus means to reject him as our Lord and God with all authority in heaven and on earth. To deny Jesus means we refuse to submit to his authority because we do not believe Jesus has the right to tell us what to do and not do.

50:53

Let's look at something Jesus said in Matthew chapter 10, verses 32 to 33. Jesus said, 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.

51:20

If we deny Jesus, if we reject Jesus as our Lord and our God, it means we face the fearful reality that we will stand before Jesus one day in judgment, and He will reject us. Let's look at the last verse of the song, verse 13.

51:43

If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. The word faithless here does not mean having weak or struggling faith. Every believer struggles with his or her faith sometimes, and if you remember, Jesus often referred to his faithful followers as you of little faith.

52:09

When Paul talks about being faithless, he means having no saving faith in Jesus at all. Let's see what Jesus said in John 3:18. We know John 3:16 really well, but let's look at what Jesus said in John 3:18.

52:23

Jesus said, whoever believes in Him, Son of God, is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already because he is not believed in the name of the God. Jesus is always faithful. That's really good news, and that's also bad news.

52:47

It's really good news because Jesus is always faithful to save whoever trusts in Him, but Jesus is also equally faithful to deny whoever does not believe in Him. For Jesus to act any other way would be inconsistent with His holy and unchangeable nature.

53:12

So, what is our takeaway from this passage? It's amazing passage, isn't it? I'd like to suggest there are two takeaways, at least two. First takeaway should be goosebumps. Absolutely should be goosebumps.

53:28

How great is our God? We sang that today. How great is our God? Life is all about Jesus. Second takeaway is we need to remember that. We need to remember who Jesus is and what He's done for us, and we need to spread the news.

53:51

We need to spread that news. What better news is there? Think about it. What better news is there than Jesus loves us? Jesus died for us, and Jesus rose for us. Well, would you like some more good news?

54:08

Sure, you did. That's why you came to church today. This is where you find it. Here's some more. Even though death can look really scary, death cannot touch us. Death is nothing to fear. We have nothing to be afraid of when we're trusting in Jesus.

54:25

Death is just the doorway to the greatest retirement plan in the universe. It is. In Christ, we have an all -expenses -paid reservation for a glorious everlasting life that will exceed every spectacular, beautiful, exciting, delicious, joyful, lovely, fun, meaningful, peaceful, comforting, and fulfilling thing we can imagine forever and ever and ever.

54:59

If you have not put your faith in Jesus yet, and right now you're on the outside looking in, but you can change that right now, right where you're sitting. You can ask Jesus to save you, and he will save you this very second and for all eternity.

55:21

If you feel Jesus calling you, don't delay. Come to him in prayer right where you're sitting. And if you have questions, or if you'd like help with that prayer, please see me after the service. And more good news, we have a prayer team that'll be right over here.

55:39

They'd love to pray with you. In fact, our prayer team is here to pray with you about anything going on in your life. We also have a prayer wall. If you go straight out the door as to your right, there's a prayer wall.

55:50

If you would like to just write your request, you can do that. You don't have to sign your name. Just leave it there and our prayer team will pray for you. We pray with me, please.

56:02

Jesus, what else can we say? What else can we say? But thank you. Thank you for leaving heaven to come down here to live this endless life. We could just never ever live. And then you died, that horrible death on the cross to take the punishment we deserve for our sins.

56:25

Thank you for rising from the dead to give us victory over sin and death. Please, please help us remember who you are and what you've done for us, not just in this moment, but even on the way home from church and even tomorrow and all the tomorrows you give us until you call us home or until you return. Jesus, we love you. We need you. We are lost without you and we praise you in your all -powerful saving name. Amen.