

**Sermon Title: Training for Godliness Requires Suffering**

**Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 2:7-13**

**Sermon Purpose: To provide encouragement and hope for the suffering Christian.**

**Sermon Proposition: Paul provides 5 truths to contemplate when and while enduring suffering.**

**Introduction: 2 Timothy 1:8-16**

- I. The Christian that is suffering must contemplate. V.7
- II. The Christian that is suffering must remember. V.8
- III. The Christian that is suffering must suffer. V.9
- IV. The Christian that is suffering must endure. V.10
- V. The Christian that is suffering must trust. V.11-13

I. The Christian that is suffering must contemplate. V.7

A. Contemplate the Commander and Chief. V.7a

The Supreme model of a faithful teacher (v.2) soldier (vv.3-4), athlete (v.5), and farmer (v.6) was Jesus Christ Himself. Timothy was to follow the example of Jesus Christ in teaching and suffering, while pursuing the prize and sharing the Gospel for a spiritual harvest.

**(2 Timothy 1:8-12)**

**Hebrews 12:2-3** looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

II. The Christian that is suffering must remember. V.8

A. Remember the Christ. V.8a

The phrase descended of David is a reminder of Jesus' messianic credentials.

**Romans 1:3** concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,

**Revelation 22:16** "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

As David's descendent, Jesus is the rightful heir to David's throne .

**Luke 1:32-33** "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. **33** "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

The Lord Supreme reigns and humanity is seen side by side.

B. Remember the Crucifixion. V.8b

The resurrection of Jesus Christ following the suffering of the crucifixion is a central truth of the Christian faith.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4** For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

**1 Corinthians 15:17-19** And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins!

**18** Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. **19** If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

By it, God offered the substitutionary atonement of the perfect sacrifice, offered on behalf of all who would believe.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**Romans 1:4** and declared *to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

### III. The Christian that is suffering must suffer. V.9

(**1 Timothy 3:10-12; 4:10; Ephesians 3:1**)

**Matthew 5:10-12** Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **11** "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **12** "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Philippians 3:7-9** But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. **8** Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

**Acts 9:16** "For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

**Acts 28:31** preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.

Paul contrasts his imprisonment for the sake of the gospel to the unchained power of the Word of God. It is the Lord of God that sets imprisoned people free, not free people who imprison the Word of God.

### IV. The Christian that is suffering must endure. V.10

#### A. The reason why we endure. V.10a

We endure by God's strength, for the sake of the elect. Those of the elect, having been chosen for salvation from before the foundations of the world, we suffer because of the gospel, and endure for the elect.

**Acts 18:10** "for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city."

**2 Timothy 1:9** who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

#### B. The rationale of our endurance. V.10b

The gospel must be proclaimed because the elect are not saved apart from faith in Christ.

**Romans 10:16-17** But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" **17** So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**Acts 4:12** "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

**Ephesians 1:4-5** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, **5** having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

**Matthew 28:19** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

**Acts 1:8** "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- C. The **result** of our endurance v.10c  
The eternal glory of the elect, which is the ultimate outcome of salvation.  
**Romans 5:2** through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.  
**Romans 8:17** and if children, then heirs-- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

But this also reflects the eternal glory of Jesus Christ!

**Ephesians 3:8-13** To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, **9** and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; **10** to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, **11** according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, **12** in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. **13** Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

**2 Corinthians 1:6** Now if we are afflicted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation.

## V. The Christian that is suffering must **trust**. V.11-13

- A. Trust the promise of eternal **life**. v.11  
This refers to the believer's spiritual participation in Christ's death and resurrection (**Romans 6:4-8**), included in the new life is the possibility of suffering martyrdom for the sake of Christ, the gospel, the Word of God, etc.
- B. Trust the promise of the future **reign** of Christ. V.12  
This is a clear statement on the necessity of perseverance of the Saints. Believers who endure give evidence of the genuineness of their faith. (**Matthew 10:22-23; 24:13**)  
**John 8:31** Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.  
**Colossians 1:23** if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.  
**Revelation 1:6** and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.  
**Revelation 5:10** And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."  
**Revelation 20:4-6** And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. **5** But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. **6** Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Therefore, to deny Christ speaks of apostasy, judgment could take place in time, but definitely in the final judgment. There will be a permanent final denial by Christ of all apostates. This does not refer to the temporary failure of a true believer Juda, Demas Hermongenes v.5 Peter, Timothy (**Matthew 26:69-75; John 21**)

Those who deny Christ provide evidence that they never truly belonged to Him (1 John 2:19) and will face the fearful reality of being denied by Christ personally. **Matthew 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. **22** "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' **23** "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' **Matthew 10:32-33** "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. **33** "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

C. Trust the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. V.13