

*8Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, 9for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned. 10For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.*

*11 It is a trustworthy statement:*

*For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;*

*12If we endure, we will also reign with Him;*

*If we deny Him, He also will deny us;*

*13If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. 2 Tim 2:8-13*

We look last week at the beginning of chapter 2 of the second epistle to Timothy. Paul encourages Timothy to, *be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, entrust what I've taught you to faithful men and be willing to suffer hardship as a soldier of Christ*. Here is that passage,

*1You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 3Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 2 Tim 2:1-3*

Here Paul gives Timothy an overview of the Christian life and ministry. First and foremost, stand firm on the foundation of salvation of grace alone on the finished work of Christ's death for our sin. *10Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. Eph 6:10,11*

Then once that has taken root in our hearts we are to become witnesses, *entrusting the truth of the gospel to faithful men*. Timothy has the gift of being a teacher but every Christian must strive to be a witness of the grace of God in their lives. Peter wrote, *sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence 1 Peter 3:15*

Paul then adds *suffering hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus*. Paul doesn't say what type of suffering Timothy might anticipate but he does say *suffer hardship with me*. Timothy was aware of the what suffering Paul had endured for the sake of the gospel. We remember Jesus words, *Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*11 "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. 12 "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matt 5:10-12*

Paul had written the Corinthians of the affliction that had been endured for the gospel in Asia.

*8For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; 9indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; 10who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our*

*hope. 2 Cor 1:8-10*

Paul encouraged Timothy to, *Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.* Martyn Lloyd Jones made the point that the church is to be more than a hospital, it is a barracks for the mighty soldiers of Christ. *Look at the great campaign, look at it objectively, look at it from God's standpoint. Forget yourself and your temporary troubles and ills for the moment; fight in the army. It is not a clinic you need; you must realize that we are in a barracks, and that we are involved in a mighty campaign.* Martyn Lloyd-Jones' sermon on Romans 6:13 This was Paul's encouragement to Timothy don't lose heart, be willing to suffer hardship. Why? Paul's words to the Corinthian believers, *momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.*

*16Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2 Cor 4:16-18*

From this foundation of faith, grace, witness and hardship, Paul expands on the reason he is willing to count everything as loss, why he is willing to endure every kind of evil attack, to *obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.*

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The context is the gospel, here he declares it is his gospel, it is the truth that he ascribes to, *Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David.* He is willing to count everything that his life was as loss, as worthless in comparison to this truth, *we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. Rom 6:4* For this he was willing to suffer, to *endure all things*, every kind of unwarranted suffering and persecution. No matter what was going on in Paul's life, he looked at it through the prism of the gospel and everything became clear to him, *I count it all joy.* He is writing Timothy to *suffer hardship with him* because of the cause of Christ. Paul saw Jesus, the *descendant of David.* He believed as the apostle John the Jesus was the Messiah, the holy one of Israel, *We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. 1 John 4:14* The promised one of Israel, *the Holy One of Israel.*

*Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and its Holy One, To the despised One, To the One abhorred by the nation, To the Servant of rulers, "Kings will see and arise, Princes will also bow down, Because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen You." Is 49:7*

Paul gave his life to declare the gospel. He wrote, *I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. 2 Tim 2:10* Paul lived to declare the truth of the gospel, *so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.* English preacher, Martyn Lloyd Jones, gave up a lucrative and noble medical career for the same reason. To the Ephesians Paul wrote,

*8To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, 9and to bring to light what is the administra-*

*tion of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things.  
Eph 3:8*

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Paul uses this introduction a number of times, 1 Tim 1:15, 1 Tim 4:9 *It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. 1 Tim 1:15* The parallel nature the of these verses seem to indicate that this passage was an early creed or hymn, it is a call and response. It is full of such vital truths, *if we died with Him, we will also live with Him.* Paul writes the same truth to the Colossians (3:3) *you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. If we endure, we will also reign with Him.* As John writes in Rev 21:7 *He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.* Then Paul offers a rather harsh warning.

*If we deny Him, He also will deny us; 13If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. 2 Tim 2:12-13*

Paul had declared, *that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.* Jesus had declared, *whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.* This one of the harshest statements in the Bible, if we deny Christ He will deny us. This shows just how important our testimony of Christ is. But lest we feel condemned we must remember that Peter, Christ's dearest follower, denied Jesus three times. He will forgive us always if He has caused our hearts to follow after Him. We must remember how great is our salvation and the He is always faithful, *He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.*

*For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. Phil 1:6*