

REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST IS THE RESURRECTED LORD

2 TIMOTHY 02:08–13

Introduction

This is one of the most important charges ever given to believers — remember the gospel, that Jesus Christ is the resurrected Lord. Jesus Christ was raised from the dead.

- I. Remember — the gospel proclaims the humanity and deity of Jesus Christ (v. 8).
- II. Remember — the gospel carries one through suffering and assures the victory of one's purpose: the spread of God's Word (v. 9).
- III. Remember — the gospel stirs endurance (v. 10).
- IV. Remember — the gospel assures eternal glory and eternal judgment (vv. 11-13).

I. 2 Timothy 02:08 *Humanity and Divinity of Jesus Christ*

Remember — the gospel proclaims the humanity and deity of Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus the Messiah was man. He was born a descendant David; He was a man just like David, born of the roots of David. God sent His Son into the world in human flesh. The Son of God became a man — flesh and blood — just like all other men. He had a human nature, and because He had a human nature. He knows...
 - the sufferings of life.
 - the temptations of life.
 - the sorrows and grief of life.
 - the trials of life.
 - the problems and difficulties of life.
 - the struggles and pains of life.

The point is this: Jesus Christ knows exactly what we face in life. Therefore, He is able to help us through all the trials of life. No matter what the sufferings are, Jesus Christ can deliver us through the sufferings and cause us to triumph over them.

John 1:14 *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Heb 2:14-16 *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants.*

Heb 2:17-18 *For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

Heb 4:15-16 *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

2. Jesus the Messiah was divine; He was of the very nature of God Himself. How do we know this? Because He was raised from the dead. The resurrection from the dead declares that Jesus is the Son of God. All other men are dead and gone. The proof is demonstrated by one simple question: “Where are they? Where are our mothers, our fathers, our sisters and ancestors?” Once they have left this world, they are gone. But not Christ. He died, but He arose and lives forever in the presence of God. Death could not hold Him because He was the Son of God and possessed the perfect spirit of holiness. (See *Jesus Christ, Resurrection*, Acts 2:24.)

William Barclay has an excellent comment on this point:

“The tense of the Greek verb which Paul uses does not imply one definite act in time, but a continued state which lasts for ever. Paul is not so much saying to Timothy: Remember the actual resurrection of Jesus rather he is saying: ‘Remember Jesus for ever risen and for ever present; remember your risen and your ever-present Lord.’ Here is the great Christian inspiration. We do not depend on the inspiration of a memory, however great. We enjoy the power of a presence. When a Christian is summoned to a great task, a task that he cannot but feel is beyond him, he must go to it in the certainty that he does not go to it alone, but that there is with him for ever and for ever the presence and the power of his risen Lord. When fears threaten, when doubts assail, when inadequacy depresses, remember the presence of the risen Lord” (*The Letters to Timothy, Titus and Philemon*, p. 189).

Acts 2:24 *But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.*

Acts 2:36 *“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”*

Acts 5:30-31 *The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead — whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.*

Rom 1:4 *And who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Rom 14:9 *For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

Eph 1:20 *[God’s power] Which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.*

Phil 2:8-9 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.

II. 2 Timothy 02:09 *Suffering and Victory*

Remember – the gospel carries one through suffering and assures the victory of one’s purpose – the spread of God’s Word. Paul was in prison because he preached the Word of God. At this particular time, Christians were hated with a fierce passion by many throughout the Roman empire. Many reacted against the message of morality and purity, righteousness and justice for all. In addition, one of the worst disasters ever suffered by a city, the burning of Rome, was blamed upon the Christian believers in Rome. Nero, in one of his moments of insanity, was guilty of ordering the fire so that he would be known as the great emperor who rebuilt the city. But the senate could never blame Nero. Therefore they sought a scapegoat, and the scapegoat chosen was the new religious sect, the Christians. As a result, a great persecution of Christian believers began. Paul, of course, was one of the major leaders of the Christians.

*“But all human efforts, all the lavish gifts of the emperor, and the propitiations of the gods did not banish the sinister belief that the conflagration was the result of an order. Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace” (Tacitus, Annals, 15:44 as quoted by William Barclay. *The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*, p. 192).*

As stated, Paul was in prison for having preached the gospel. He was true to his call, the very purpose for which God had put him on earth: to proclaim the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. But note a glorious fact: the Word of God could never be bound. Paul himself could be stopped by men, but the purpose of Paul could never be stopped. The Word of God cannot be stopped. Its message will continue on and on down through history. The message of God’s great love for the world – the message of the cross, of the death of God’s Son for the world – that message will never be stopped until the world ends. There will always be some believers who will be proclaiming the Word of God – that God will save any person who comes to Him through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Isa 55:11 So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Jer 5:14 *Therefore this is what the LORD God Almighty says: “Because the people have spoken these words, I will make my words in your mouth a fire and these people the wood it consumes.”*

Jer 23:29 *“Is not my word like fire,” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”*

III. 2 Timothy 02:10 Gospel Stirs Endurance

The gospel stirs one to endure all things. How? By results. God has promised to save people by the gospel. When we preach and teach salvation in Christ Jesus — salvation with eternal glory — God saves people. This is the only hope for people, and no greater hope could exist. Just imagine living forever in eternal glory! Such a life is beyond our imagination, yet it is exactly what the gospel is all about. Therefore, no matter what it costs — no matter how much suffering we have to bear — we must endure it all for the salvation of people. This is the point of Paul: the gospel — the glorious truth that people could actually be saved and receive eternal glory — stirred Paul to suffer all things. Paul longed for people to hear the gospel so that they could be saved. This, too, must be our purpose and objective in life. We, too, must proclaim the gospel — no matter the suffering and sacrifice. We must pay any price to see that people hear the gospel, for the gospel is the only way people can be saved and receive eternal glory.

Mat 16:25 *“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will Find it.”*

Mark 10:28 *Peter said to him, “We have left everything to follow you!”*

Luke 14:33 *“In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.”*

Phil 1:12-14 *Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.*

Phil 3:8 *What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.*

IV. 2 Timothy 02:11–13 Eternal Glory and Judgment

The gospel assures eternal glory and eternal judgment. Most commentators say these three verses were one of the first hymns of the early church.

1. Note the glorious promise: if we die with Christ, we shall also live with Him. How can a person die with Christ? (See notes, pt. 3, 2 Tim. 1:8-10; pt. 4, 1 Tim. 2:3-7. See *Believer, Position in Christ*, Rom. 8:1.)

When the believer suffers and endures for Christ, he is assured of reigning forever with Christ.

Mat 24:13 *“But he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”*

2. Note the tragic result of denying Christ. “If we disown Him, He also will disown us.”

Mat 10:32-33 *“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.”*

Mark 8:38 *“If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”*

Titus 1:16 *They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.*

2 Pet 2:1 *But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them — bringing swift destruction on themselves.*

3. Note that God means what He says: He will keep His Word. His promise of glory and His pronouncement of judgment are sure. Some people will be saved and glorified, and others will be disowned and condemned.

*“If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself. He is faithful to his threatening, faithful to his promises; neither one nor the other shall fall to the ground, no, not the least jot or tittle of them. If we be faithful to Christ, he will certainly be faithful to us. If we be false to him, he will be faithful to his threatening: he cannot deny himself, cannot recede from any word that he hath spoken, for he is yea, and amen, the faithful witness....If we deny him, out of fear, or shame, or for the sake of some temporal advantage, he will deny and disown us, and will not deny himself but will continue faithful to his word when he threatens as well as when he promises” (Mathew Henry. *Matthew Henry’s Commentary*, p. 839).*

John 3:36 *“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.”*

John 8:24 *“I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins.”*

Heb 3:12 *See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.*

Heb 4:11 *Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience. ■*