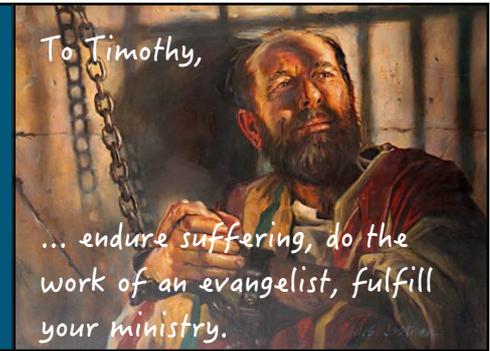


# 2 Timothy

*Fulfill Your Ministry*

Lesson 5



In lesson 4 after encouraging and challenging Timothy in 2 Timothy chapter one, Paul tells Timothy how to build an enduring church. This included a personal call to service, instruction to teach and train men for teaching within the church, and three illustrations to show Timothy that his job is necessary, but challenging.

## **Remember Your Hope and Purpose 2:8-13**

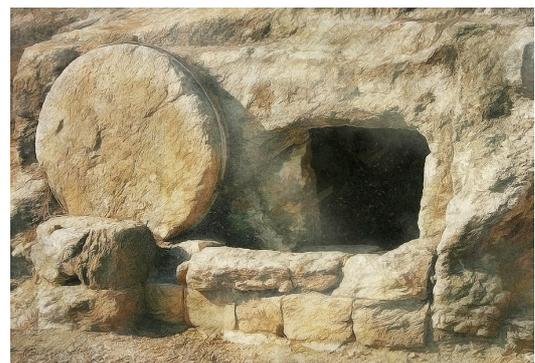
Paul has reminded Timothy that his ministry will be difficult as again and again he calls on him to share in suffering for Christ. Paul sits in a prison chained and awaiting execution and he wants Timothy to know that he might have to face the same for Christ.

In verse 7 Paul has urged Timothy to “*think*” about what he had written and the Lord would help him understand. The Christian faith is a “thinking” faith. Followers of God should look at Scripture, examine it closely, appreciate it, and apply it in their lives. The Lord provides understanding to those Christians who seek to understand his Word.

### **1. Define “thinking” and describe why it is important for Christians to “think” about their faith.**

In verses 8-13 Paul will show that this suffering has purpose and value providing eternal hope for Timothy and for all who embrace the gospel. The first word in verse 8 is the word “*Remember.*” What should Timothy remember? Persecution was coming. Imprisonment or death for Christ might await Timothy. In these difficult times he is to remember the victory of Jesus.

**Remember the Resurrection.** It is important for Christians to be continually reminded that the life of Jesus did not forever end at Calvary one Friday just over 2,000 years ago. The story of Jesus did not end at the cross or in the tomb. The God who created everything raised his Son from the grave. There is nothing more important that any Christian can remember than the fact of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.



## 2. How can we as Christians keep the truth of the resurrection at the forefront of our minds?

Paul also refers to Jesus as the “*offspring of David*” emphasizing that Jesus was fully human as well as fully divine. The humanity of Jesus means that he understands every problem, temptation, and difficulty of man through his own experiences. Being the offspring of David shows the truthfulness of Scripture as Jesus fulfilled prophecies that were centuries old. Furthermore, being the heir of David shows the rightful Kingship of Jesus.

**Remember the Cause of Suffering.** Paul was suffering because he preached Jesus Christ and his resurrection. For this reason he was “*bound with chains like a criminal.*” The word translated as “*criminal*” is the same word used to describe the thieves on the cross. It is a word reserved for the worst of lawbreakers such as murderers, thieves, and traitors.



## 3. Have you ever suffered for Christ? If so, how? If not, why not?

Followers of Christ should **expect** persecution. Paul suffered and he called on Timothy to suffer alongside him. Today in Australia, we do not live under the reign of a brutal ruler like Nero and we do not currently face imprisonment or execution for proclaiming our faith like some of our brothers and sisters around the world do. Still, we might wonder if we would suffer more if we really challenged a lost world with the truth of the resurrection of Christ and a call to repentance.

## 4. What do you think Paul would be doing in today’s Australia and what would be the results?

**Remember the Power of the Word of God.** The apostle Paul might be chained like a criminal, but the word of God cannot be bound. In fact it was in times of imprisonment that Paul found audiences of prison guards with which to share the gospel.

What a powerful truth this is: Preachers of the Gospel can be imprisoned, Christians can be fed to the lions, attempts can be made to destroy the Bible, Christianity can be outlawed, but the Word of God cannot be bound. The word of God cannot be destroyed. The word of God cannot be stopped. The message of the gospel still changes lives and it will change lives until Jesus comes again. What power there is in the word of God.

## 5. Why is it impossible for the word of God to be bound?

**Remember the Purpose of Suffering.** Paul says in verse 10 that he will “*endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*” The purpose of suffering was to proclaim the gospel and lead men and women to salvation in Christ. The word “*endure*” means to go through a lasting difficulty. Paul’s suffering was not a momentary passing problem, but a difficult and long lasting time of persecution.

The elect are those people who become Christians. They are elected when they choose by their own free-will to make Jesus their Lord and Saviour. Paul’s faithful endurance in preaching Christ in the face of persecution led others to salvation. Paul would endure prison, beatings, shipwreck, and execution to lead others to Christ so that they might experience eternal glory.

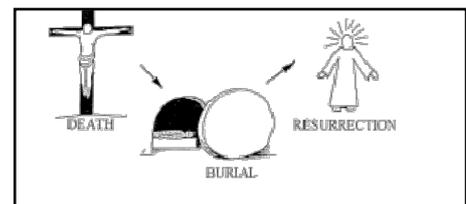
## 6. Why was Paul willing to endure such suffering to win the lost?

**Remember a Trustworthy Saying.** Verses 11-13 contains what is called a “*saying that is trustworthy.*” The saying is inset in most Bible translations showing this to be a poem or hymn. Many believe this to be a first century Christian baptismal hymn, which Paul is reciting, and which was sung immediately following a baptism. The point of the hymn is that those who accept Christ and remain faithful have a great hope awaiting them. Within this saying or hymn are found positive and negative conditional promises as well as an unconditional promise.

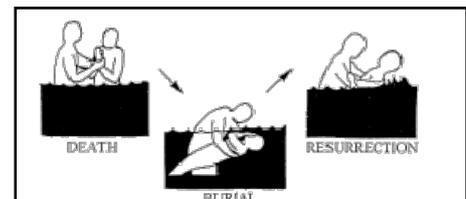
📍 Positive Conditional Promise: “*If we have died with him, we will also live with him.*”

No one reading what Paul wrote could be physically dead, but he speaks to those who “*have died with him.*” To what death could he be referring? It must be to the Christian’s death to sin.

## 7. When and how does a person die with Christ? (See Romans 6:3-8; Colossians 2:12)



## 8. What promise is given to those who have died with Christ?



📍 Positive Conditional Promise: “*if we endure, we will also reign with him.*” Those who have been baptised into Christ have died to sin and been united with Christ. This second positive conditional promise tells us that we will “*reign with him*” if we endure.

We have already seen that to endure for Paul meant to face persecution with resolve and to not give up even though death awaited. Christians may be faced with trials, temptations, and difficulties of all sorts. While no one can take us from Christ we can remove ourselves from him by failing to endure (See Hebrews 3:12-19; 11:26-31; Galatians 4:8-11). For those who are faithful unto death, God promises a crown of life (Revelation 2:10).

## 9. What are some things Christians might have to endure for Christ?

 Negative Conditional Promise: *“if we deny him, he will also deny us.”* There is a very significant cost for denying Christ after becoming a Christian. Some people become Christians only to later turn their back on him.

This verse in the hymn probably had in mind the words of Jesus in Matthew 10:32-33 when he said, *“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.”*

## 10. What are some ways in which a person could deny Christ?

 Unconditional Promise: *“if are faithless, he remains faithful--for he cannot deny himself.”* The unchanging God will always be faithful. He will never desert us and he will always be faithful to his promises. This promise gives us great comfort as well as a warning to remain faithful. God will always do what he promises.

## 11. How does the truth of an unchanging God give you comfort?

## 12. List some of the unconditional promises of God?

Paul encourages Timothy to think about what he has written and to bear up under suffering. To help him remain faithful Paul provides a number of truths to remember. May each one of us endure throughout our lifetimes, serving Christ and sharing his gospel, realising that any cost we endure is worth the eternal glory that awaits.