

For Such a Time as This

A Daily Devotional

Monday, April 29, 2024



From 2 Timothy 2

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹ the gospel for which I am suffering and wearing fetters like a criminal. But the word of God is not fettered. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory. ¹¹ The saying is sure:

**If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;
¹² if we endure, we shall also reign with him;
if we deny him, he also will deny us;
¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.**

Two-thirds of the Pastoral Epistles are up for discussion at this evening's Thru the Bible Class. The Pastoral Epistles are a collection of three books of the Bible that are attributed to Paul, but probably were written by someone who was appreciative of Paul's stature and remembrance in the early Christian church. Regardless of authorship, the two letters to Timothy and the one to Titus comprise some good pastoral advice to those who are called to lead churches.

In Second Timothy, the author sought to encourage its recipient, whether a whole community of faith or a particular leader of the church at the time. His writing is convincing and admonishing all at the same time and here, in the second chapter, he reminds his reader to remember a saying that was apparently well known. This may have been a hymn or a confession of faith, but its words should cause us to be convinced not of our great piety in following Jesus Christ, but in God's great faithfulness to us in Christ.

Thomas G. Long, in his commentary on the passage, wrote this and find it a most appropriate encouragement to us here and now:

We have our hopes set on Easter, to be sure, but we live out those hopes in a Good Friday world, a world in which even revered figures like David have feet of clay, a world in which even apostles go on trial for hope and get thrown behind bars for the sake of the gospel. The light of Easter has dawned, and we see it beckoning us toward eternal glory. But don't forget, as the false teachers tempt you to forget, that the Christian life is not putting on sweet angel wings and flying away into the ether. It's lacing up your shoes and putting one foot in front of the other, faithfully living out the gospel hope in the messy relationships and conflicted circumstances of this world. After all, that's the way Jesus himself did it.

Prayer for the Day: (From *Daily Feast: Year B*)

I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay! Amen.

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