

them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” If you really remember that Jesus arose as Paul exhorts Timothy, by His grace and power you live before the Lord and others out of a pure heart. Is that your heart presently, or if you will be honest, is it full of impurity on your part, the youthful lusts are raging there? Do you need to hear especially the word of our text given also to Timothy so long ago?

We need to hear it again and again yet for the purpose of Christian enthusiasm and expectation in God’s ways. Paul speaks to Timothy about being a vessel for honor in God’s house, one that cleanses himself from those who will not be vessels of honor, and one who seeks to be sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. That is the Christian’s calling especially also living in the perilous times we live in today, to be zealous in the way of grace and truth, spending ourselves for God and good while it is yet the day of God’s mercy and saving power. Paul urges Timothy to be a worker who does not need to be ashamed, one who is gentle, faithful, godly, diligent, disciplined, and steadfast. Is this what marks your life and mine? How can it be so, except we always and again remember in the sense of look to and lean on and love and serve Jesus Christ as the resurrected triumphant Saviour Who richly gives all that He rightly demands from us. We are called to look to a great and gracious glorious Saviour, and in and through Him to go from strength to strength and from glory to glory.

If you and I want to be as God calls us to be, in God’s gospel way and to receive and reflect Christian encouragement, and endurance, and to be about Christian evangelism and emphasis, and to show Christian example and enthusiasm, we need to remember and remember and remember and not forget Jesus Christ as the resurrected Saviour of sinners. *“Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel”*. This is what makes sense of the whole gospel and gives so much reason to trust it, and love it, and live it, and let it shine, you in your small corner and I in mine. Will such be your response to only this gospel, the gospel of Jesus Christ? Amen.

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**BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST**

*Radio Ministry of the FREE REFORMED CHURCHES of North America*

*Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)*



**REMEMBER![2]**

This is the second of two radio messages on the text of God’s Word in II Timothy 2:8. There Paul writes to Timothy, *“Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel.”* We noted last time this was a very fitting word from Paul written to Timothy especially to help him in the way of Christian encouragement and Christian endurance. In this message we go on and notice surely Paul calls for Timothy to remember Jesus Christ as risen Saviour also for Christian evangelism purposes. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead proclaims the triumph of His gospel cause and gives infinite motivation to the spreading of the gospel to the ends of the earth. Paul says with confidence even though he is in prison for the gospel’s sake, *“the word of God is not bound [chained].”* No, rather it is to be boldly proclaimed and we can be sure of the success of the ministry of the Word for the risen Saviour, to Whom all authority and power is given in heaven and on earth, will see to it that the Word prosper and that all those ordained to eternal life become saved. We can be enthusiastic for the gospel ministry and missions because Jesus lives, and as triumphant ascended Saviour and Lord, He will see to it that His Word does not return to Him void.

We need to notice how important is the gospel message for the salvation of sinners according to Paul, as brought out also in verse 10, where he says, *“Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”* Do you hear what Paul says? No sinner is ever saved just because they are elect. Rather the elect are saved as sinners by grace alone when hearing the gospel and repenting of sin and believing that gospel. The gospel of the risen Saviour is for sinners, and whoever believes on Christ Jesus as only Saviour and Lord shall be saved. The gospel isn’t for people as the elect, but as sinners, and sinners are called to turn from sin and to turn to Jesus Christ, and all who do will find in Christ Jesus their salvation, including their election. If you are allowing the teaching of election to salvation to be a stumbling block to you in the gospel way, it means you have never yet really grasped the gospel message which is for sinners *“that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”* Whatever you all need to obtain that salvation is freely given and granted to all who ask the Saviour for His complete salvation. Oh sinner, come and you shall be blessed; ask and you shall receive; seek and you will find; knock and it shall be opened to you. Jesus lives sinners to save! Are you a sinner needing salvation? *“Look*

unto Me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else!" we are told in Isaiah 45:22.

The point now is that Paul calls Timothy to remember Jesus as resurrected Saviour also for evangelism purposes for with the living Saviour we can be so sure and confident His word is the truth, His gospel cause is triumphant and it cannot and will not fail! Let us get the gospel out, and let the resurrected Saviour bring the increase according to His sovereign good pleasure. The Word of God is not bound. In the prison in Philippi, Paul also told about how, while in prison, the gospel cause still prospered and spread. God's gospel cause cannot and will not fail. Jesus' resurrection from the dead guarantees 100% success on the gospel ministry in your area and all over the world.

The Christian Church corporately and individually is called to proclaim and testify to others from the Word of God, praying and working that God will use the gospel for good, as Paul says at the end of our text chapter, "if God peradventure will give them repentance, to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." The gospel is the sword of the Spirit, Paul says in Ephesians 6, and by that gospel God still seeks and saves sinners, and by that gospel God builds up and equips and sanctifies His people to live for Him and His praise. So Timothy, and the Christian Church today, stay with the Word, and teach others to preach the Word, and be confident in Christian evangelism and ministry knowing Jesus' cause will prosper. When in doubt, just remember Jesus Christ being the resurrected Saviour!

Yes, remember this, Timothy, for the purpose of Christian encouragement and endurance and evangelism, and also for the purpose of Christian emphasis on what really counts. It is so easy in the Christian church and in the Christian life personally to get caught up in all kinds of lesser matters and even insignificant questions and disputes about this and that, but that is something we need to avoid and can avoid when again and again we remember the heart and center of the Christian gospel. Notice how Paul warns three times in our chapter about getting caught up with "words to no profit" and "vain babblings" and "foolish questions" [verses 14, 16, and 23]. How often we can be busy in religious discussions and debates and not be pursuing nor modeling the Christian gospel and way. Matthew Henry writes, "If people did but consider of what little use most of the controversies in religion are, they would not be so zealous in their strifes or words." It is not that little things don't count, but we get them all wrong when the main truths are no longer the main truths for us. Get the main truths right and live out of them and it will help you deal with all the rest in a Biblical Christ-exalting way. But if you more or less forget or minimize the major truths and get all caught up in the other matters, you get it all mixed up and mostly all wrong very often. The facts of Jesus' Person and His death and resurrection

as Saviour of sinners is part of that solid foundation concerning our salvation and let us hold to it and build only always on it.

In this regard and in this way Timothy is to be diligent in "*rightly dividing the word of truth*", Paul says, meaning he is to "cut it straight" in accordance with the Holy Spirit's meaning and intent for the salvation and sanctification of the hearers and the glory of God above all. For this reason as well, Timothy must see and expose the errors of those who reject Jesus and His resurrection, people like Hymenaeus and Philetus. Paul makes clear these men were holding to false teaching and if they will not repent they must be removed from the church for they were spreading error and were a threat to the gospel cause.

To emphasize the gospel truthfully and fruitfully and in a God-honouring, truly Bible-based manner involves remembering again and again Jesus Christ as the crucified and risen Saviour. The Christian faith is all about the Saviour Whom God the Father has given, and Whom the Spirit would show to us, Jesus Christ the Lord. Paul exhorts Timothy as he does in verse 8 that he might in that way also ever emphasize the gospel truths as Scripture does, and not all kinds of other things. Isn't this a good lesson for us too that maybe even you especially need to hear at this time in your life?

We can say Paul calls Timothy to remember Jesus Christ as the risen Saviour also for example purposes in the way of godliness and holiness. With Jesus risen from the dead, what is anyone who confesses to belong to Him still doing clinging to any sin? The seal of God's gospel cause is that God knows those who are His and all such show they are saved and belong to God in fleeing from all sin and evil and no longer permitting sin nor excusing sin, nor harbouring sin and not committing sin. Paul says, "*Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*" Are you caught up in iniquity, maybe even some secret sin that is more and more getting hold of you and controlling you? Are you forgetting to remember Jesus Christ as resurrected Saviour of sinners? When believing in Him and belonging to Him, sin should no longer be part of you. Then your sin has been crucified with Christ, and what are you doing picking it up again and allowing it a place in your life? Remembering Jesus Christ as resurrected Saviour should remind the believer to be dead to sin and alive to God and righteousness in and through Christ Jesus. When saved we are new creatures in Christ Jesus, and while sin still so often cleaves to us, we must never allow it breathing room, but squash it, crucify it, mortify it, and flee from all appearance of evil.

Does anyone listening need a real reminder of this, and do you too so need to hear this word to Timothy in verse 8? Remember Jesus Christ and that He has been raised from the dead, and He is of the seed of David according to my gospel. There is no other gospel you know. As confessing Christians, in view of the risen Saviour as Paul writes to Timothy in verse 22, we must "*flee youthful lusts, but follow righteousness, faith, love, peace, with*

