

*You must endure all suffering for the gospel, because through suffering
the gospel goes forth for salvation with eternal glory.*

- I. Remember Jesus Christ (2:8; 2 Sam 7:16; Rom 1:3-4)

- II. Remember Paul (2:9-10)
 - A. Paul is bound by chains for the gospel (Luke 23:32-33)

 - B. Even so, the gospel is unbound and advancing (Phil 1:12-14)

- III. Remember the Trustworthy Saying (2:11-13)
 - A. If we have died with him, we will also live with him (Rom 6:8ff; Gal 2:20)

 - B. If we endure, we will also reign with him (Matt 10:22; 19:28; Rev 22:5)

 - C. If we deny him, he also will deny us (Matt 10:22-23)

 - D. If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful-- for he cannot deny himself
(Ps 40:11; 2 Thes 3:3; 1 Thes 5:23-24)

Reflection Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. What are the reasons this passage gives to endure in suffering?
2. What is the most difficult suffering God has brought into your life? How did you endure it?
3. According to this passage, what should our prayer be for those who are suffering persecution for the gospel?