

TITLE AND NUMBER: 101. Remain faithful to your calling



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

What does this Bible passage tell us?

Paul is writing to Timothy at a time when there is considerable conflict within the church and the Gospel is once again being challenged in his absence.

The Christian life is not a sprint; it is a marathon. Paul encourages Timothy to endure the race, deal with opposition and be certain of what he believes in: Jesus Christ, descended from David and raised from the dead. The genealogy of Jesus (listed in Matthew 1:1-17) was important to Paul who was raised as a Jew but had chosen to preach to everyone. He is adamant that the Christians should understand and maintain their calling to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul encourages Timothy to endure hardship to the very end and not drop out.

No one likes suffering. We all prefer an easy life. But Jesus talks about 'taking up our cross' (Matthew 10:38; 16:24-25). Our role is to declare the Gospel of Jesus whatever the cost BUT He is faithful to support us even when the journey may get tough. Look again at the passage: *'Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.'*

Because that is His nature, God is always faithful even if we are not. But, if we disown Him, He will disown us. You may immediately say, 'What about Peter? He denied Jesus three times!' Peter said he did not know Jesus because he was scared for his life. But in his heart, he still loved Jesus and God forgave him as He would us. There is always a way back to God for those who seek Him.

Jesus was in the business of restoration and still is today. However, we must be sure of what we believe, who we believe in and remember the responsibility we have to always affirm our faith when challenged.

Reflections:

- The word of God is powerful and He will sustain us by His Holy Spirit as we seek to serve Him. Let's pray every day that we remain faithful in serving Him and finish our course.
- Who do you have to support you on your journey? Maybe ask the Chaplain for help.
- Is there anyone you can support on their journey?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

