

Running the Race of Faith
2 Timothy 2:8-13 (Week 04) 05/03/2026
Remember The Gospel

This is my message written prior to being preached. Please excuse the bullet point format and any grammatical mistakes. This is meant to be spoken.

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

¹¹ The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure, we will 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. (2 Timothy 2:8-13)

Introduction & Review

- If you read through the Bible, and I hope you do, you'll find examples of **God's desire** for His people to remember **Who** he is and what **He's done**.
- Let me give two OT examples... **First, Passover.**
- On the night before Israel's **Exodus from Egypt**...
- God instituted **the Passover** as a **continual yearly ceremony**.
- Moses instructed the people to **put the blood of a lamb** around their doors...

²³ For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. ²⁴ You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. (Exodus 12:23-24)

- And then he added...

²⁶ And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' ²⁷ you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the LORD'S Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.'... (Exodus 12:26-27)

- **Passover** was meant to be a reminder of **God's Mercy to Isreal**...
- For God not only passed over Isreal, saving them from the destroyer, **He struck the Egyptians**,
- resulting in Israel's deliverance from slavery.
- **And God wanted his people to remember what he had done for them!!!**
- **The second example** took place some **40+ years later**,
- When the Children of Israel **crossed the Jordan River** into the promised land.
- God stopped the waters from flowing so the people **could cross on dry ground**.
- And once across the river, God instructed the priests to take **twelve stones from the Jordan** and pile them in **Gilgal in the Promised Land**.

- He then gave **these instructions...**

6 ... When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' 7 then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever." (Joshua 4:6-7)

- The Israelites were to look on the stones and **remember** that they did not get across the Jordan and into the promised land through their own ability; **it was all the work of God.**
- And **why did God want Israel to remember his Mighty Works?**
- Because as people (both old and young), we tend to be very forgetful.
- **And that's fine sometimes**, who wants to remember **having their wisdom teeth pulled.**
- But when it comes to **the Mighty Works of God**, being forgetful is a **big problem.**
- In fact, **Psalm 78, which is 72 verses long...**
- gives a summary of God's work in Israel, that they were to communicate to every generation.
- **But verses 10 and 11** tell what they did instead...

10 They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to his law. 11 They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them. (Psalms 78:10-11)

- **They forgot the wonders God had shown them,**
- **They forgot** that it was Yahweh who had mercifully delivered them from slavery in Egypt,
- Made them a nation, gave them the Promised land and so much more.
- And the tragic result of their forgetfulness,
- found again and again throughout the OT is that Israel did **not keep God's covenant,**
- they refused to walk according to his Law.
- So, there's a connection between remembering God's mighty works...
- and **living in trust and obedience to Him.**
- And before **we** start pointing fingers at **Israel's failure**, we should remember our own.
- Because we present-day children of God can be just as forgetful **as Israel.**
- We too can forget God's **works and the wonders.**
- We can forget his mighty works recorded in his Word, and his personal works in our lives.
- **This seems to have been a problem for Timothy.**
- Apparently, he could be a bit forgetful when it came to **what God had done for him personally.**
- In **verse 5 of Chapter 1** Paul **subtly reminds him** of his faith and how God worked in his family.

5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. (2 Timothy 1:5)

- Then in **verse 6** Paul adds...

6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, (2 Timothy 1:6)

- Timothy, remember what God has done to bring you and your family to faith.
- Remember how God has gifted you to be a minister of the Gospel.
- **Remember his mighty works in your life.**
- That was in Chapter 1, now in Chapter 2 Paul seeks to remind Timothy of something even more important.
- **And what is that?**
- Well, it should be obvious, **not only from the title of this message.**
- Not only from it being the **focus of Paul letter thus far,**
- but because it is the **Greatest of God's Mighty Works.**
- **In fact, you could say it is the ultimate purpose (or the heart) of all God's Mighty Works.**
- And that is **The Gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- Paul's purpose throughout this letter has been to encourage, exhort, inspire, motivate Timothy to continue to engage in **Gospel Ministry.**
- To continue preaching the gospel, teaching the gospel and making disciples who will continue the process of preaching and teaching the gospel.
- **And to do this gospel ministry even if it means Suffering.**
- And so, Paul, knowing Timothy's and (all people's) **tendency to forget,**
- **Takes time** to call us to **Remember the Gospel...**
- **And why is it crucial to remember the Gospel.**
- Because, as we keep the gospel in the forefront of our minds,
- As we remember the Mighty Works of Jesus Christ to bring about our forgiveness, our salvation, our sanctification and our eternal life.
- As we remember the gospel of Jesus Christ, we are encouraged, inspired, motivated to live in trust and obedience to Jesus Christ.
- **And we are empowered to engage in Gospel Ministry, to share the gospel with others.**
- So, let's turn to our passage, where Paul begins with the **first and most important thing** we must remember, that is...

1. Remember the Person of the Gospel

- The Christian/Biblical gospel message is not a list of **dos and don'ts** that **earn salvation.**
- The Gospel is the **good news** about a **person that provides salvation.**
- It is quite literally **the mighty works of God done through his Son Jesus Christ,**
- To provide salvation, sanctification and eternal life to sinful people.
- And so, beginning in **verse 8**, Paul calls Timothy to...

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ,

- Now we could stop here and recall all that God's word (from Genesis to Revelation) reveals to us about Jesus.

- We could also remember that his name, Jesus which means, “Yahweh is Salvation”
- God provided salvation **through Jesus sacrificial death on the cross.**
- **Remember Jesus is our Savior.**
- We could also remember that **Christ** means **anointed**,
- which corresponds to the **Old Testament** word **Messiah.**
- Remember Jesus is the Messiah, **the one who fulfills all the OT prophecies.**
- And we will touch on both of these today...
- But in our passage Paul calls Timothy and us to remember **two very specific things.**

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David...(2 Timothy 2:8)

- **First**

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead

- The verb tense of "**risen from the dead**" is the **Greek perfect tense...**
- which means he was raised and still is raised.
- **And why is it crucial to remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ?**
- **That Jesus Lives?**
- Well first, because, as we often point out on Easter (Resurrection Sunday),
- It is the Resurrection that provides **the proof for the Gospel message.**
- As Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 15 (which is all about the resurrection) ...**

¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:14)

- If there's no resurrection, then we are all wasting our time.
- My preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain; it's all vanity!
- What took place on the cross was just the tragic death of good man.
- But Jesus did rise from the dead.
- Paul argued that point in **1 Corinthians 15** as well,
- He said that not only had the **OT Scriptures prophesied** Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.
- But after his death and resurrection...

⁵ ...[Jesus] appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

- As Paul wrote these words to **the Corinthians**,
- and as he **wrote to Timothy** there were people still living who'd seen Jesus alive after his crucifixion and burial (entombment).

- So, remember the resurrection actually took place and **this means the gospel message is true.**
- It proves that Jesus is **who he claimed to be, the Son of God.**
- It proves that **Jesus died on the cross for the sins of humanity.**
- AND it proves that those **who trust in him will also experience resurrection.**
- Which Paul also covered in **1 Corinthians 15...**

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)

- All those who are in Christ, who trust in Christ, and place in Christ, shall be made alive.
- Shall experience **resurrection from the dead, so...**

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead,

- Remember how the resurrection proves the gospel,
- and allow that to not only support your own faith
- **but give you boldness and strength to proclaim the gospel to others.**
- And remember that **the resurrection of Jesus means** that all who believe in the gospel will be **raised from the dead as well.**
- Let that give you hope as you experience **the suffering in this life,**
- especially when, like Paul your suffering comes because you proclaim the gospel.
- And that brings us to **the second thing about Jesus** Paul wants us to Remember...

Remember Jesus Christ... the offspring of David

- Now why is this so important to remember, what is Paul focusing on here?
- Well, he want's Timothy (and us) to remember that **Jesus Christ** fulfilled the **covenant that God had made with David.**
- Jesus was a descendent of David,
- and God had given him a promise, which was first made to **in 2 Samuel 7.**
- Through the **prophet Nathan the Lord promised King David...**

16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever. (2 Samuel 7:16)

- And this promise is **repeatedly reiterated** throughout the Old Testament.
- A descendant of David would reign forever.
- And that descendent would be the Messiah, **the Christ the anointed one.**
- **The one who would deliver his people. AND Jesus Christ is that offspring of David.**
- SO, REMEMBER Jesus Christ is the King that will reign forever.
- Remember Timothy, Bridges, Jesus Christ is the King of Kings and Lord of Lord.
- Remember He is your King and Your Lord.
- **Therefore, remember to serve Him.**

- And how should Timothy and how should we serve Jesus Christ?
- Well, I think Paul hints at this at the end of verse 8.

8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, (2 Timothy 2:8)

- Paul is saying, this is the gospel I preached, which got me thrown in prison.
- And Timothy, this is the gospel you must preach, **even if it gets you thrown in prison.**
- You must tell people that Jesus, who died for their sins, rose from the dead,
- That he is Alive and he is the Eternal King.
- The fact that Jesus rose from the dead, proving the gospel.
- And that he is the offspring of David, the eternal King and Messiah.
- Were key elements of and kind of a shorthand for the gospel Paul preached.
- **In fact, he uses almost the same shorthand in Romans 1:1-4:**

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, (Romans 1:1-4)

- This is the good news: **Jesus Christ is the eternal King, as promised to David.**
- and he has **been raised from the dead and ever lives.**
- **This is the gospel.**
- Everything else flows from **these two supreme realities.**
- As the descendent of King David,
- He fulfills **all of the Old Testament messianic prophecy.**
- Not only is he the **Eternal King** but he is also the **suffering servant of Isaiah 53...**

4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:4-6)

- **Remember, Jesus Christ, offspring of David,**
- The Messiah who would be both eternal King and sacrificial lamb.
- And remember, Jesus **Christ risen from the Dead,**
- As the resurrected Lord, everything he said and did...
- His sinless life, his miracles, his atoning sacrificial death for our sins,
- All of this and are proven true through his resurrection.
- And don't forget the resurrection means Jesus Christ has defeated **sin and death.**
- **That all who trust in him will rise from the death and receive eternal life in his presence.**

- This is the truth that gave Paul strength and should strengthen Timothy and all believers as we endure suffering for the Gospel.
- Therefore, we must keep before us that Paul's command to

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, (2 Timothy 2:8)

- These truths and all that surround them should enable and empower us to engage in gospel ministry even when it means suffering.
- SO, keep on remembering that the Gospel is a message about a person.
- Jesus Christ who is alive and reigns as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- Keep remembering he is alive and reigns in your life.
- Therefore, you must serve him by proclaiming his Gospel message.
- Paul then calls Timothy **and all believers to...**

2. Remember the Power of the Gospel

- Backing up to the end of **verse 8** we read...

⁸ ...as preached in my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! (2 Timothy 2:8-9)

- Paul preached the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- And for that he was suffering, chained in a Roman prison, **condemned** as a **criminal**.
- Ceasar Nero had just **burned Rome (in A.D. 64)**
- and he blamed the Christians, of whom Paul was a leader.
- So, Paul **was arrested, imprisoned, chained and treated like criminal scum**.
- All this for the sake of the gospel.
- This is Paul's situation, but this is not Paul's focus.
- His focus instead is on the gospel and **its great power**.
- Paul says I may be suffering in prison, **bound by chains as a criminal...**

But the word of God is not bound!

- That word **bound** means to bind, to tie up, to chain down.
- The word of God is not chained, it's free to go forth **on the lips of believers like Timothy and you and me**, accomplishing God's powerful purposes.
- As the author of Hebrews tell us...

¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

- And as Paul will write later in this letter...

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- The word of God, the gospel of Jesus Christ, is powerful beyond measure.
- It has the power to transform lives, to get at into the hearts of men and women.
- It has the power to teach, reprove, correct and train in righteousness.
- It has the power to equip God's people for every good work.
- And this powerful, transforming message is not bound...
- it was not bound in Paul's day, **and it is not bound it ours.**
- It is free to do the work God **has purposed for it to do.**
- Paul knew this from first-hand experience.
- Even in difficult times, times of suffering, the unchained powerful word of God,
- the gospel of Jesus Christ will accomplish God's purposes...
- During his **first Roman imprisonment**, he wrote to the Philippians:

12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. 14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. (Philippians 1:12-14)

- No matter how hard men try to suppress the gospel it is not bound it will go forth,
- it will be advanced.
- **Paul was powerfully stating the absolute freedom and power of the Word of God.**
- Even today in our secular society **where many people**, even university professors, discount the word of God.
- Calling it myth, filled with errors, contradictory, irrelevant for life in our world.
- YET, it continues to go forth, it continues to transform thousands if not millions of lives.
- Just as an example, in 2023 the Southern Baptists alone reported nearly 227,000 people were baptized, Professing faith in Jesus Christ.
- God's Powerful Word cannot be bound, Paul then writes...

10 Therefore

- Because the word of God cannot be bound.
- Because the word of God will go forth and accomplish what God purposes.

I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. (2 Timothy 2:10)

- Paul is willing to endure every suffering because he knows the word of God is not bound.
- It will go forth with great power, and the elect (those chosen by God) will be saved when they hear and receive the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- As Paul wrote to the Romans...

17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17)

- And those who respond to the word of Christ, **the gospel**, in faith,
- will be brought **into eternal glory by Jesus Christ.**
- And what Paul is saying is that knowing he is imprisoned for proclaiming the gospel,
- And knowing that the gospel is powerful and effectual.
- That it will go forth and bring salvation to the elect, **to all those God has chosen.**
- Knowing these things gives him the strength **to endure everything.**
- **From prison he says, suffering for the powerful Gospel is worth it!**
- And his hope is that knowing these things will encourage Timothy and all who read this letter to Remember the Power of the Gospel.
- To endure everything as you proclaim the powerful effectual gospel...
- So that men and women might be saved and receive eternal life.
- **So, Paul has called us to Remember the Person and Power of the Gospel.**
- And then he adds...

3. Remember the Promises of the Gospel

- Paul concludes this section with a poem, highlighting the promises of the gospel.
- He introduces the poem with these words...

11 The saying is trustworthy, for... (2 Timothy 2:11)

- What Paul will write in this poem **are truths** that have been widely affirmed in the early Church.
- Each line begins with an **"if"** that describes the believer's actions.
- and is followed by **a phrase** that gives **Christ's promised response.**
- The first line speaks to...

A. The Promise of New Life in Christ

If we have died with him, we will also live with him; (2 Timothy 2:11)

- This refers to Jesus Death on the Cross, His Resurrection and the impact for who trust Him.
- Now to help us understand what this impact is we can look at **Romans 6.**
- **Where in verse 8** Paul says almost the exact same thing.

8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. (Romans 6:8)

- **Now Romans chapter 6** is all about **the believer's union with Christ...**
- and what that means **not just for eternity**, but for the here and now.
- Paul's point in Romans 6 and 2 Timothy 2 has to do with our promised new life in Christ right now.
- In fact, in both passages the phrase...

we will also live with him

- Refers primarily to the present.
- Jesus Christ's death and resurrection give us not only eternal life but **new life right now.**
- **AND it's this life with Christ now that Paul focuses on in Romans 6...**
- **In fact, in verses 10 & 11 he draws this great conclusion...**

¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must (TODAY) consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:10-11)

- Dying with Christ and Living with Christ or living in Christ...
- not only means that one day in the future we will be resurrected unto eternal life.
- But it means that today, we can overcome sin and live in obedience to God.
- **And that's the gospel.**
- That when Christ died all who would trust in him died in Christ...
- and now we can **"walk in newness of life"** we now have the power to overcome sin and live for Jesus Christ.
- And this is a promise worth remembering.
- **Remember the gospel tells you that if you've died in Christ (if you've given yourself to Christ) then you have new life in Christ, a life lived for God.**
- And that takes us to **the second line**, which speaks specially to

B. The Promise of Eternal Reward

- Whereas the last promise was mainly for life now.
- This promise is for eternity...

¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him... (2 Timothy 2:12)

- **Endurance** is crucial if we're to receive this eternal reward.
- As we saw earlier, Paul had already said...

Therefore I endure everything.

- Apparently, Paul is concerned that Timothy and all believers will endure.
- To endure means to hold your ground, **particularly during times of suffering.**
- The gospel of Jesus Christ calls the believer **to endure, persevere to the end.**

- In fact, Jesus said...

13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (Matthew 24:13)

- Now salvation and eternal life are certainly a great reward for endurance.
- But Paul tells us, there's more. We are promised that...

we will also reign with him

- And what does that mean?
- Well, I'm not totally sure but in Romans Paul writes to those who are children of God...

17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (Romans 8:16-17)

- Again, the suffering, the endurance leads to being joint heir with Jesus.
- Which implies that we get what he gets, **and we reign with him.**
- **In Revelation 3**, Jesus makes this a bit clearer, when to lukewarm church of Laodicea, he says...

21 The one who conquers (endures), I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. (Revelation 3:21)

- The gospel promises those who endure to the end will **reign with Christ.**
- **What joy, what encouragement!**
- As we struggle in this life, as we consider giving up!
- Remember the Gospel, **remember the promised reward** for those who endure.
- It is more that **playing harps in heaven**, it's joining with Jesus, sitting on his throne,
- reigning ruling over I DON'T KNOW WHAT, **but I can't wait to find out.**
- **Now the third line is a bit of a downer, more of a warning or a negative promise...**

C. The Warning of Christ's Denial

- The gospel warns (promises) that...

12 ... if we deny him, he also will deny us; (2 Timothy 2:12)

- Paul is certainly remembering Jesus' well-known teaching...

32 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 10:32-33)

- To deny has a wide range of meanings in the New Testament,
- from temporary disowning (like Peter did to Jesus) to full-blown **apostasy.**
- Rejecting and even becoming opposed to the faith, **denying Christ and HIS gospel.**
- Here in **2 Timothy**, it is most certainly **referring to this apostasy**, a total rejection, denial of Christ.

- Because first notice, **Christ denies those who do it, it's a big deal.**
- **Second**, because of the **close similarity** with Jesus' saying, that involves a denial of the person before the Father in heaven, **again a serious matter.**
- And third because the fourth line will deal with **temporary denial or unfaithfulness.**
- So, Paul says, if you deny/reject Christ, **if you fail to endure.**
- Then on that final judgment he will deny you!
- And this denial is eternal; **it leads to eternal separation from God.**
- **So, Remember the Gospel**, that teaches there are **major terrible consequences** for denying Christ.
- **AND DON'T DO IT!**
- And that takes us to the final line of this poem, which speaks of...

D. The Promise of Christ's Faithfulness

¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (2 Timothy 2:13)

- Now after **reading line 3** about Christ's denial of those who deny him.
- And then reading the beginning of this line, ***if we are faithless.***
- We might expect the line to end; **he will not be faithful to us.**
- **But that is not the case.**
- Paul is saying that if we lapse **into unfaithfulness**, Jesus still remains faithful,
- as He did during the temporary denial by Peter.
- Even though Peter experienced a time of unfaithfulness, Jesus remained faithful.
- **And even went out of his way to restore Peter to relationship with him (see John 20)**
- What comfort this must have been for Timothy who probably fell into unfaithfulness at times.
- And what a relief to us who are often faithless Christians. **Jesus remains Faithful.**
- But let me give you a warning here.
- This PROMISE should never be seen as an excuse to be faithless.
- You must never say or think, I can sin, I can deny Christ for a day or two,
- no worries, he remains faithful, he'll forgive me.
- If that's how you think then I would question whether you actually know Jesus at all.
- Because those who know Jesus, do not plan to sin against Jesus.
- And yet, sometimes we fall, but this gospel promise offers us a way back to relationship with the Lord.
- In his love and mercy and kindness, he, like the father of the prodigal son, is waiting for our return.
- And why is Jesus (Why is God) like this, why is he so faithful when we can be so faithless.
- Because, as Paul says...

for he cannot deny himself

- His faithfulness is rooted deep within his unchanging, steadfast nature.
- **What God is, he always is.**
- No man is always himself, but God is always himself.
- He cannot be untrue to his own nature.
- As Samuel Rutherford, who for the sake of the gospel, spent years in prison, wrote,

Often and often, I have in my folly torn up my copy of God's covenant with me; but, blessed be His name, He keeps it in heaven safe; and He stands by it always. (Samuel Rutherford)

- So, **remember the Gospel** that tells us that the nature of God is faithfulness.
- That when we fail, when we fall, when we sin, when we are faithless,
- He will not reject us, he will not deny us, he will not turn his back on us...
- He will always **faithfully welcome us back into his presence.**
- AMEN!
- So today we've hopefully been

motivated to Remember the Gospel.

- **Remember the Gospel's person**, Jesus Christ who rose from the dead proving the gospel
- and who reigns eternally as the offspring of David, the promised Messiah.
- **Remember the Gospel's power**, it cannot be bound, it goes forth powerfully transforming lives, saving the elect.
- And **Remember the Gospel's Promises**
- The promise of **New Life in Christ**, overcoming sin and living for God's purposes.
- The promise of **eternal reward**, reigning with Christ throughout eternity.
- The warning of **Christ's denial** of those who deny him.
- And the promise of **Christ's faithfulness**, even when we are faithless.
- Remember the Gospel, for there is power in **remembering the Mighty works of God.**
- As we remember what Jesus Christ has done for us
- and what he continues to do in and through us,
- It should powerfully motivate and encourage us to live in trust and obedience to God.
- To, **as Paul has been instructing Timothy**, to engage in Gospel Ministry.

And that leads us to communion.

- Because, the sacrament of the Lord's Table,
- instituted by the Jesus Christ during the Last Supper, just prior to him going to the Cross,
- is meant to be a **perpetual reminder of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- For **Remember, the Gospel is a Person.**
- A person **whose body was broken**, and **blood was shed** for you and me,
- that we might experience **the power of the gospel in our lives.**
- And that we might **receive the promises of the gospel** both now and for all eternity.

- Now I began this message with two **Old Testament** examples of God's desire for his people to Remember his Mighty Works.
- And do you remember, why God wanted his people to remember what he had done for them?
- **We saw it in Psalm 78...**

¹⁰ They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to his law. ¹¹ They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them. (Psalms 78:10-11)

- Because when they forgot what God had done for them, they did not keep covenant.
- They failed to trust God, and they failed to live in obedience to God.
- **That's what happens when we forget What he Has Done for US!**

- And so, Jesus, knowing our propensity to forget,
- gives us this beautiful picture to remind us of **God's Greatest Mightiest Work Ever...**

- **So, we're going to pray, and as we do,**
- I'd ask the ushers to come forward and be seated in the front row.
- We're going to begin our time of prayer with silence so that each of us can prepare our heart to partake of communion, **to remember Jesus Christ.**
- You should use this time to **examine yourself**, for Paul writes...

²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 11:27)

- Jesus' body was broken and his blood shed as a sacrifice for our sins.
- And so, if we partake of communion while harboring hatred, grudges, bitterness,
- **sin in our hearts**, we do so in an unworthy manner,
- which is a sin against **the Lord who gave his body and blood for us.**
- So, take this time to confess your sins, asking the faithful Lord to forgive your unfaithfulness
- and cleanse you from all unrighteousness.

Silence

- **Pray**
- **IF WE HAVE GUESTS**
- In just a moment we're going to sing, and the ushers will hand out the bread and juice.
- These elements symbolize the body and blood of Jesus Christ.
- They are meant to help us celebrate and remember that he died for our sins.
- And, no matter who you are, whether you are a regular attender of Bridges or not,
- If you are believer, if you trust that Jesus died for your sins then we would invite you to participate in communion with us.
- However, if you have yet to trust in Jesus, then we are glad you are here today,
- but I would ask that you let the elements pass you by and just observe.

- **Distribute Elements (Singing)**

- **THE BREAD**

- This is a time of remembrance, Remembering the Gospel.
- Remembering the Mightiest Work of God.
- Remembering the Death of Jesus Christ for Our sins.
- So would you join me in this Remembrance.
- As Jesus ate with his disciples in the upper room,
- **Just one day before he would go to the cross...**

19 he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

- What we're doing, is meant to help us remember Jesus Christ.
- We remember his broken body, nailed to a cross to pay the penalty for our sins.
- So let us partake of the Bread in Remembrance of JESUS CHRIST.

20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. (Luke 22:19-20)

- We also remember the blood Jesus shed,
- Blood that flowed from the crown of thorns which was forced on to his head.
- Blood that flowed from his back where he was whipped again and again.
- Blood that flowed from his side which had been pierced by a spear.
- And blood that flowed from the nails that penetrated his hands and feet.
- But by a MIGHTY WORK OF GOD...
- It was this blood, the blood of Christ, that established the new covenant!
- A covenant in which our sins are forgiven, and we enter relationship with God.
- So let us partake of the Cup in Remembrance of JESUS CHRIST!

**Prayer
Song**