

**(2:8)** - Paul reminds Timothy of the glorious truth of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. Christ suffered, bled, and died to save His people from their sins. The accomplishment of His great redemptive work was followed by His resurrection which was the fruit of His suffering unto death for us. As our sins imputed to Him demanded His death on the cross, the righteousness He established, which was imputed to us, demanded His and our life (*Rom. 5:21; 1 Cor. 15:20-22*). Paul reminds Timothy of this to encourage him in the ministry of the Gospel. The truth of our salvation unto eternal life and glory in and by the Lord Jesus Christ motivates and encourages true ministers to “*endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ*” (2:3). Paul identifies Jesus Christ as being “*of the seed of David*” to emphasize His humanity (*Rom. 1:3*) which enabled Him to suffer unto death for our sins. The Gospel reveals Christ as both God and man in one Person, and as Godman He redeemed us from our sins by His suffering unto death. Christ identified with His people in His flesh without sin in order to redeem us from sin (*Heb. 2:14-18; 4:14-16*). This should encourage us to identify with Him as we suffer in the flesh for our witness and confession of Him.

**(2:9)** - Paul suffered opposition and persecution from the enemies of Christ and His truth because he preached this Gospel of the resurrected Christ and identified himself with Christ against the world (*Rom. 8:16-17*). All of us who are saved by the grace of God in Christ will suffer persecution in some way and to some degree when we stand with Christ and His people against the unbelieving world because men by nature hate the light of truth that exposes their evil deeds and false refuges of religion (*John 3:19-20; 15:18–16:3*). This suffering for the sake of Christ and His truth is one of the main ways we identify with Him, confess Him before men, and give evidence of being a true child of God (*Heb. 12:1-8*). It is also one of the main ways we express our love for Him and for our brethren in Christ.

“**As an evil doer, even unto bonds**” - The lost, religious world judged Paul to “**an evil doer,**” because they could not accept that they themselves and their deeds were evil. Men by nature will not receive the things of the Spirit of God when He reveals that without Christ all we are and all we do is evil in the sight of God. Unregenerate man in his false, self-righteous, works-oriented religion is convinced within himself that he is righteous, that he is saved, and that he pleases and is accepted of God. Anyone who would say otherwise is evil in his judgment. The lost religious Jews of Paul’s day called him a heretic and accused him of preaching heresy (*Acts 24:14*). They judged Paul to be cursed of God (*Gal. 6:14*). Remember what the Apostle John wrote - “*the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not*” (*1 John 3:1*). For this reason Paul was bound and imprisoned, but, as he states emphatically, “**the word of God is not bound**” (*cf., Php. 1:12-20*). Men, no matter what they do, cannot bind or hinder God’s purpose to save His people in getting the Gospel message to them in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**(2:10)** - Paul’s perseverance in the Gospel ministry and his endurance in suffering persecution and opposition was “**for the elect’s sakes,**” those whom God had chosen before the foundation of the world and whom Christ had redeemed by His precious blood. Paul knew that all whom the Father had given to His Son would come to Him, but he also knew that God had determined and provided the means to bring them to Himself - the preaching of the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit (*John 6:37-45; 2 Thess. 2:13-14*). All of God’s elect will, by the power of the Holy Spirit in the new birth, come to faith in Jesus Christ. This is

why Christ commanded His disciples to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature (*Mark 16:16*). It is because God has an elect people whom He will call out of the world “*with an holy calling*” (*1:9*).

“**That they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory**” - Paul knew that he could not save sinners. He knew that he could not give sinners spiritual life and bring them to faith in Christ. He knew he was just an instrument whom God used but that salvation is in and by the Lord Jesus Christ. He knew also that salvation was not something to be earned by sinners nor could it be by any sinner’s free will or obedience. Salvation is something sinners “**OBTAIN**” by virtue of the power, goodness, and righteousness of Christ. Salvation is all of grace even unto “**eternal glory.**”

(**2:11**) - This is a true saying accepted and believed by all Christians. True Christians do not disagree here. All who died with Christ shall, without fail, live with Him. This refers to every believers spiritual participation in Christ’s death and resurrection (*Rom. 6:4-6*). In His death and resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ was the Representative, Surety, and Substitute of all His people. They are all God’s elect, Christ’s sheep, and His church. His death insured and demands the whole salvation of all His people unto eternal life “**with Him.**” In this context, Paul’s point would also be to show that even if we are called on to be martyred for the cause of Christ, we will live forever with Him.

(**2:12**) - As stated before, suffering persecution, even death, over the Gospel is one of the greatest evidences that we are the children of God (*Heb. 12:5ff.*), as well as one of the greatest evidences of our salvation and that we will reign with Christ. Those who deny Christ, who speak peace to lost sinners, in order to relieve persecution give evidence that they are not children of God (*Matt. 10:32-33; 13:20-21; 1 John 2:18-19; Heb. 6:4-6*). However, make no mistake about this, that it takes the sovereign power and grace of God even for a true believer to stand firm unto death against opposition and persecution. None of us would give our lives for Christ of our own power and courage, for we have the treasure of God’s grace and truth in Christ in earthen vessels, and our only “*sufficiency is of God*” (*2 Cor. 3:5*). Without His power and grace, we would all deny Him to save our own lives.

(**2:13**) - If we who claim to believe in Christ and love His truth “**believe not**” and prove to be false professors of Christ, this does not reflect upon God’s character or power to save His people from sin and bring them to faith in Christ. “**He abideth faithful**” to all that He has purposed and promised to His elect people in and by the Lord Jesus Christ. “**He cannot deny Himself**” - If God were to fail to save even one of His elect whom Christ has redeemed by the blood of His cross, this would be the equivalent of God denying Himself. God has engaged His glory to save His people. He has promised and swore by Himself to do so. He will not and cannot deny Himself. Paul uses “**we**” here not to cast any doubt upon his own salvation and not in any attitude of unbelief as if to say, “I don’t know if I’m going to make it.” He uses “**we**” in the generic sense to show that no matter what happens in any individual case, God abides faithful to His promise to save His people in Christ.