



Remember Jesus Christ

The call to remember the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a common one in the New Testament, particularly in Paul's writings. Why is that? How could any person who has experienced the goodness of God through the Gospel promises in Christ ever forget about Jesus Christ? However, the fact of the matter is that human beings have such fickle memories that we can forget even the greatest message ever told. This call to remember is not something new. All throughout the Old Testament narratives, we read of the Israelites building altars, monuments, or pillars to help them remember the truths about Yhwh and his word.¹

It is the same for God's people during the New Testament times and today. We can be so distracted by the things of the world that we forget the Gospel of Christ. Paul constantly reminded his readers about the Gospel². But what is this Gospel that Paul wants to remind Timothy? Let's dive into 2 Timothy and find out.

Launch

- 1) What are some ways in our life that we "forget" the Gospel message?

REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST

Read 2 Timothy 2:8-13.

- 2) What is Paul calling Timothy to do in v8?
 - a. Recite 1 Cor. 15:3-4 from memory. Compare and contrast that Gospel message with what Paul says in 2 Tim. 2:8.
 - b. What are some implicit truths and assumptions about who Jesus is and what he has done in these two phrases? (v8)
- 3) What is happening to Paul? (v9)
- 4) In what way is God's word not chained? (v9b)

¹ Some examples include Deut. 27:2-4, 1 Sam. 7:12,

² Another example is 1 Cor. 15:1-8.

- a. What then does Paul do as a result? (v10) What do you think that means? (cf. 2 Tim 1:11ff)
- b. Based on this verse (v10), what would you say to those who claim that evangelism is not necessary because the elect would be saved anyways?

5) Write down the “trustworthy sayings” in the following table:

<u>We</u>	<u>Him</u>

- a. Take some time to discuss each “pair” of the trustworthy saying and what they mean.
- b. Does verse 13 indicate that our faith doesn’t matter since Jesus will be faithful anyways? If not, then what do you think that saying means?

6) How can you remind yourself of the Gospel message daily?

7) What are some encouragements that you can draw from the fact that God’s word is not chained?

Conclusion

We need constant reminders of the Gospel message. There are countless things in our lives that distract us away from the Gospel message. We always need reminders of what is “of first importance” in our lives (cf. 1 Cor 15:3-4) – Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. No matter how hostile the world is to that message and how much they try to suppress it, it can never be chained. That is why we endure suffering to preach and share the Gospel to all, so that the elect may obtain the salvation that has been destined for them. Paul ends this section by reminding us of our union with Christ (v11-12). Verse 13 can be tricky if read improperly. It is describing of our faithlessness in the Gospel message. Even if we are faithless, Christ will always be faithful to his own promises and words – salvation comes to those who trust in him, but judgement (or disownment) to those who do not. It is impossible for Christ and God to deny or disown his own words or promises. That is why we seek comfort and security in the Gospel promises of Christ.