

Sermon
Lanier Christian Church
May 21, 2017

Remember Jesus SLIDE #1

2 Timothy 2:8-10

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. ¹⁰ 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. – 2 Timothy 2:8-10

Two sermons on Remember – today and next week. How is your memory? Do you forget things? Things to do? Or maybe you went to a room in your house to get something and then when you got there, you couldn't remember what you were going to get.

And what about people? How embarrassing it is when you run into someone you haven't seen in ages and you know their face, but you can't think of their name. WHAT DO YOU DO?

I've had to apologize and say, "I'm sorry but I just can't remember your name." Sometimes it's terribly embarrassing, because you knew them very well but the name just wouldn't come to you. Here's an example.

I've actually prayed with people who are in the hospital and as I started to pray I forget their names! WHAT DO YOU DO IN A SITUATION LIKE THAT? AND WHAT DID I DO? I thanked God for His blessings, I prayed for their strength, I called them God's child, etc. until their name came to me. NOW THAT'S BAD. That's a bad memory. Where are we? Who am I? Let's get back on track!

What did Paul tell Timothy to remember?

1. REMEMBER JESUS SLIDE #2

v.8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David.

Oh wow! He's the greatest person that any of us could remember. If we would just remember Jesus every day we'd stay faithful, hopeful, and fruitful in life.

Perhaps you remember the rescue of those 33 Chilean miners in 2010. They were rescued from 1/2 mile beneath the earth, having spent 69 days trapped inside the San Jose mine in Chile before being rescued. One miner, Jorge Galleguillos said, five years after the rescue, **SL#3** "They're aren't enough words to thank God enough. (5 years later)

Mario Sepulveda said, he is a changed man. "I buried 40 years of my life down there, and I'm going to live a lot longer to be a new person." Sepulveda, the second miner extracted from the mine, has advice for those who take undue risks in their lives. "I think I have learned a lot of wonderful lessons about taking the good path in life," he said. "For those of you able to call your wives or your husbands, do so."

During the time he was trapped inside the mine, Sepulveda said, he saw both good and evil. "I was with God, and I was with the devil. They fought, and God won," he said. Sepulveda said he grabbed God's hand and never doubted that he would be rescued. I WOULD SAY THAT HE REMEMBERED JESUS! Had I been there I would have too! What about you? Jesus was their only hope. And we noticed that several of those miners were quick to fall on their knees

and thank God once they got to the surface. AMEN! PRAISE HIS NAME!

"Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David."

Remember Jesus. SLIDE #4 We should never forget what Jesus did for us on the cross. We need to keep Jesus fresh in the photo album of our minds. We serve the Lord's Supper every Sunday. Why? Because the early Christians did this (Acts 20:7) and because Jesus said to do it in remembrance of Him. SLIDE #5

Luke 22:19 "And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

We all need to be faithful in remembering Jesus' death at this table. It's not just a matter of taking these emblems into your mouth. It's a matter of remembering what they represent. It's a matter of remembering that Jesus bore your sins in His body on the tree. It's a matter of remembering that Jesus tasted death for you. It's a matter of remembering that Jesus became sin for you so that you could become the righteousness of God. THAT'S SOMETHING WORTH REMEMBERING!

During the Lord's Supper I always thank God for Jesus and I also thank Jesus for what He did for me, because He did what no one else would do for me! I owe Him my very life and soul! I want to remember Him!

One of the best and greatest things we can do in life is to remember Jesus! And not just on Sunday, and not just

around the Lord's Table, but every day! Every hour of every day!

At one time in London, there was a Christian restaurant owner named Emil Mettler. Mettler would never allow a Christian worker to pay for a meal in his restaurant. One day he opened his cash register and a British Secretary was astonished to see among the bills and coins a six-inch nail. What was it doing there?

Mettler explained, "I keep this nail with my money to remind me of the price that Christ paid for my salvation and of what I owe Him in return."

If there is anything we can do to remember Jesus then it's probably very good. Why do you think people have pictures of Jesus in their homes or maybe a cross hanging on the wall?

Remember Jesus. Remember His death. Remember His burial. Remember His resurrection. Remember that He is alive and well and is at the right hand of God interceding on our behalf! Because HE lives, we too shall live.

Remember the risen Jesus every day in prayer and more than likely you will stay on the straight and narrow, with the strength of Christ enabling you every day.

2. REMEMBER GOD'S WORD – SLIDE#6

8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.

Remember God's Word, which is not chained or restrained.

Do you ever write any email notes to people? Or, text them a question. Do they respond? Whenever I write people and especially, when I've asked them about something and they never respond or answer me, that really bothers me.

First, I wonder if they got it. Then I wonder if they read it and third I wonder if they care.

Do you realize that God has written you personally? He cares very deeply for us. His Word is very personal and should cause us to respond. Listen, for example. **SL#7**

*Psalm 1:1-3*¹ *Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.*

Doesn't this text do something for you or to you? God has promised us that if we will read His Word, meditate on it, and delight in it He'll bless us with a certain amount of prosperity, spiritual and perhaps otherwise. That should excite us. That's how much God cares about us!

God is saying that if you'll just read my Word and respond to me that I will provide for you in every way! The Word of God is the secret of a blessed life for us who are in Christ.

But sad to say, much of the time we don't respond to God's Word whether we read it or hear it preached! We are not moved or motivated to humility and action. We should read God's Word and respond to His Word. Let's take a walk through Psalm 119.

Psalm 119:2 "Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart. They do no wrong, but follow his ways." And V. 11 **SLIDE #8** "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

We will do little wrong if we pay attention to God's Word. Sin will keep you from the Bible or the Bible will keep you from sin! Take your choice!

V. 7 "I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws." The more we learn of God's Word, the more we'll praise Him and praise His greatness!

V. 28 **SLIDE #9** "My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word." The Word of God is the greatest "pick-me-up" there is! Coffee is good, but the Bible is better.

V.36 "Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain." The Word of God will keep you from selfishness and make you care for others.

V.37 **SLIDE #10** "Turn my eyes away from looking at worthless things; make me live by your way." The Word of God will turn you away from worthless things in life and worthless living.

During the reign of Queen Victoria the British empire climbed to its height in power and territory. When asked by a foreign

prince the secret of her country's greatness, Queen Victoria replied, "The Bible, my Lord, is the secret of our greatness."

Remember God's Word. It is never chained, but frees us to live life as God intended.

3. REMEMBER TO SHARE THE NEWS OF SALVATION **SL#11**

10 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.

Paul was saying, I endure everything for the sake of God's elect, for the sake of others that will come to know Christ. Paul is speaking of his Jewish brothers and sisters and the Gentile world. He was willing to endure everything (persecution, ridicule, imprisonment) for the sake of winning all people to Christ. God's desire is that all come to salvation in Him. He offers the gift of forgiveness, but we as his creation need to respond. SLIDE #12

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to **repentance**. – 2 Peter 3:9*

Paul spent his entire life reaching others for Christ, and he especially gave his greatest efforts to reach his Jewish kin.

Romans 10:1-2 Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. ² For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge.

Paul's heart's desire and prayer was for his Jewish brothers and sisters to be saved in Jesus. That's a great desire and

prayer for anyone! Do you have that desire and prayer for anyone that needs Christ? IS THERE SOMEONE OUT THERE THAT YOU WANT TO BE SAVED IN JESUS?

We all need to be reminded that we are not just here for us. God doesn't just want us to go to heaven. He wants ALL to have the opportunity to be saved and go to heaven!

Jesus came "to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10)
SL#13 And we're here for the same reason. I think we don't take this business of reaching out to others with the gospel seriously enough! Either we've tried it and struck out or else we don't just don't see the need.

God needs to touch our hearts with the importance of leading people to Christ. Our world is consumed with this attitude of "take care of yourself and leave everyone else alone." We need God to make us sensitive to telling others about Jesus so that we never forget to share his good news with others.

Think of it this way: If someone hadn't talked to you about coming to Christ, then where would you be today?

We need to remember that there are people around us every day that need Jesus. We should never forget that and never stop praying that others would find forgiveness in Him.

CONCLUSION-----

Jeremy Binns wrote a great line a few years ago. He said: "May I never forget that on my best day I still need God as desperately as I did on my worst day." **SLIDE#14**

My friend we need Jesus....every day...on our best day and our worst day. May we never forget that.

We need His Word...every day. May we never forget that.

We need to share that life changing salvation and hope that is found in Jesus – every day. May we never forget that.

It doesn't matter if you're having a good day or a bad day, we'll always need Jesus, we'll always depend on his word, and He'll always call us to share His gospel with others. May we never forget!

Adapted from Steve Shepherd with additions by D.Simpson