

## II Timothy, Sermon #8

II Timothy 2 – opens by teaching us that we have responsibilities as believers.  
We have them – we can excuse ourselves, try to slip a way from them, pretend that they don't exist, but they do.

God describes these responsibilities to us by using metaphors: steward, soldier, athlete, farmer

Vs. 7, we are to consider these – think upon them

Don't look at your Bibles

Steward – commits

Soldier – endures, good and bad

Athlete – lawful/legitimately – we can't cut any corners

Farmer – labors, I'm working – there's a harvest coming, I'm working

Now, God has us after pondering these things about what we are supposed to be, upon applying this to ourselves, now lift up our eyes and look at Whom? Jesus

I have entitled today's message "I Am Resolved"

Say that with me, "I Am Resolved" – stay the course, commitment

II Timothy 2:8

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

II Timothy 2:8-14

Let us pray

You may be seated

## I Am Resolved

Jesus Christ is not calling on us to do something that He didn't do Himself

1. Steward (12 disciples)
2. Soldier (endured the cross)

**Hebrews 12:2**, *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

3. Athlete (strove lawfully)
4. Farmer/laborer (worked hard)

“*Why* should I be a faithful steward?”

“*Why* should I suffer hardship like a soldier, follow the Bible, and toil hard like a farmer?”

God gives us two powerful motives for faithfulness.

We need to have some motivations to be faithful.

All the world teaches us to be unfaithful.

We need to be motivated – it is too easy to be lazy, selfish, not to care, and to forego  
our responsibilities

We need to be motivated

Look at vs. 8. What does God say?

The word **remember** is an imperative.

Don't forget—this is a command / to recollect, to rehearse in our minds Jesus Christ

For a faithful and productive spiritual life, this is not an option, but an order from God.

Remember **Jesus Christ**.

“Remember the Arizona” – USS Arizona bombed by the Japanese on December 7, 1941. Over 1,000 men died when it exploded and sank, and when the men engaged in battle, they would say, “Remember the Arizona!”

“Remember the Alamo” was the battle cry that Sam Houston gave to his troops, the Texans. He wanted them to remember the massacre at the Alamo!

Remember Jesus Christ

“Timothy, you will be more aggressive, you will have greater courage, greater boldness, greater endurance and you will work longer and faster for the Lord if you **remember** Jesus Christ, who He is and what He has done.”

**II Corinthians 12:10**, *“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches [insults], in necessities [needs], in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”*

God’s grace – supernatural working of God in his life to be spiritually strong when he was weakest.

This remembrance is not a one-time deal, not just at Communion.

The tense here means to “continue to remember” or “keep on remembering.”

★Our Lord **Jesus Christ** should always be in the forefront of our minds. ★

- He was the greatest soldier, the greatest athlete, and the greatest farmer.
- He fought the greatest battle and won the greatest victory.
- He ran the greatest race and won the greatest prize.

We must keep in mind that Jesus’ path to glory was marked by

pain before pleasure,  
 sorrow before joy,  
 humiliation before glorification,  
 persecution before exaltation,  
 death before resurrection,  
 earthly hatred before heavenly worship.

To remember those truths about our Lord's earthly life will protect us from the foolish and ungodly promises of the so-called health and wealth gospel—prosperity gospel – Name it and Claim it – Faith enough, you gain wealth and great health – easy believism

False teaching

This is what Jesus taught

Jesus made it clear that to confess Him as Lord means to submit to Him and serve His cause.

1. **John 14:15**, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. " That often involves sacrifice and suffering.
2. **Luke 9:23**, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. " The Christian is to obey Christ even if it costs him his life.
3. **John 15:20**, "Remember the word that I said to you, ' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. "
4. **Matthew 10:17-18**, "Beware of men; for they will deliver you up to the courts, and scourge you in their synagogues; and you shall even be brought before governors and kings for My sake."

Jesus Christ motivates us to be faithful, especially in the hard times.

Remember Jesus Christ – Here are some specific things to remember:

Notice in **Vs. 8**, of the Seed of David

We should remember Jesus Christ in His humanity, in His identification with fallen mankind as a descendant of David “according to the flesh.”

He identifies with us.

**Hebrews 2:14, 18**, “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; . . . For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to help them that are tempted.”

This line of David also speaks of His divinity – He was the promised Messiah – sent from God – the Promised One, the Anointed One, the Special One.

God came from heaven to earth. “The Word was with God and the Word was God and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory.”

Remember what Jesus Christ put down so He could come down.

II Timothy 2:8

We are to **remember Jesus Christ** who was raised from the dead.

Remember Jesus Christ, who is alive because of the resurrection.

We do not serve a past event or a merely historical figure.

Jesus did indeed live a human life and died a human death.

But we worship and serve Him because He is no longer dead but alive.

We remember and worship and serve the *living* Christ.

Our Lord is Alive. We can have a personal relationship with Him.

Through His death and resurrection, Christ broke the shackles of sin and of its wages, death, which is the greatest weapon of Satan.

So that we can know these Truths and these Truths can set us free

He came back from the dead. Gospel – Vs. 8 – death, burial, resurrection

Jesus Christ is the greatest motivation for our faithfulness to God.

We should be motivated by Him.

II Timothy 2:9, “Wherein I suffer trouble” – Paul was willing to endure evil treatment.

Why? Because Christ did!

We may get into a little trouble if we stand for Jesus Christ.

- Paul got into trouble. He was labeled as an evildoer (Vs. 9)
- He was in prison for teaching the Word of God.

**II Corinthians 4:8-10**, *“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; / persecuted, but not forsaken; / cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.”*

Turn over to I Peter 2:21-23.

Turn back to II Timothy 2:9.

God’s point in the present verse, therefore, is not to complain about our position in life, our troubles (catacombs under the city of Rome), but rather to be faithful because Christ was faithful – to have resolve

Paul was chained, but **the Word of God** cannot be chained.

- II. The 2<sup>nd</sup> great motivation for our faithfulness to God is the impossibility of tying down the Word of God.

The power of God’s Word has never been dependent on man’s protection **or subject to man’s restriction.**

That is precisely God’s point.

**The Word of God is not**, and cannot be, **imprisoned.**

The Word of God is not bound.

And it will endure—it is faithful, it is eternal

We can trust it, rely on it—rest on it

The Bible should motivate us to faithfulness. What this Bible says is true!

Although Paul was in chains, he found that the Word of God was still going out.

Even with a mad Caesar on the throne, Nero had imprisoned Paul to silence him, but the Word of God cannot be silenced.

Philippians 4:22 – tells us there were believers in the house of Caesar.

We know what Paul does in prison: He is praying, singing, and preaching.

The only way to shut Paul up was to lop off his head.

Thank God, it still is going out to the world in our day.

John Bunyan was put in jail, behind a high wall, yet he preached. People would come to hear him.

The Bible says about itself that it is “incorruptible”

I Peter 1:23, *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”*

In the famous hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,” it says, “The body they may kill; God’s truth abideth still.”

Its power cannot be bound. The more it is assailed, the more it prevails.  
Whole countries have tried to stop its import by confiscating the Bible.

Vs. 10, “Therefore, [because of Jesus and the Word] I endure all things”—persevere, stay under

**Therefore** refers back to remembering Jesus Christ and the unchained Word.

- Those divine motivations gave the apostle the willingness to **endure all things for the sake of others**
- In order **that** unbelievers might **be saved**

Investing our life into others is time consuming

Enduring suffering

Learning the Bible and its principles

Laboring for the Lord in service to Him

## **“I Am Resolved”**

Let us stand for closing invitation. Every eye closed.

As a Christian, would we say that we are resolved/committed – that we carry on for  
Christ in spite of trouble, trials, and difficulties?

Are we focused on Christ?

Are we trusting in the Word?

Gospel – lost soul – death, burial, and resurrection

### **I Am Resolved**

I am resolved no longer to linger, charmed by the world’s delight;  
Things that are higher, things that are nobler—these have allured my sight.

Chorus:

I will hasten to Him, hasten so glad and free,  
(I will hasten, hasten to Him, hasten so glad and free)  
Jesus, greatest, highest, I will come to Thee.  
(Jesus, Jesus)

I am resolved to go to the Savior, leaving my sin and strife;  
He is the true One, He is the just One—He hath the words of life.

I am resolved to follow the Savior, Faithful and true each day;  
Heed what He sayeth, do what He willeth—He is the living way.

I am resolved to enter the kingdom, leaving the paths of sin;  
Friends may oppose me, foes may beset me, still will I enter in.