



Sunday, May 5, 2019

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to 2 Timothy 2:1-13

Endurance is a common theme in the New Testament. The assumption of the New Testament writers is that people who follow Jesus and seek to share the gospel with others will inevitably face suffering and persecution. It is a strange thing for us to live in the time we do when we are not persecuted severely for our faith.

But for Paul (and likely for Timothy), suffering and persecution was a guaranteed by-product of preaching the gospel. Beautifully, though, Paul is able to convince himself and Timothy of the value of enduring suffering based on Jesus' own suffering in the gospel. Surely, if Jesus was willing to suffer such hostility against Himself by sinners, they could endure similar suffering for His sake. Not only that but seeing as Jesus' life did not end in suffering and death but in resurrection and glory, they need not worry about what they were "missing out on" by living the way that they did. What a great example to us!

Context

2 Timothy 2 develops several major themes from chapter 1. For instance, Paul's exhortation to Timothy to endure suffering has already made an appearance (1:8). Likewise, the testimony of his own suffering, which almost always accompanies his exhortations, has already been addressed (1:11-12). But perhaps most importantly, the truths of the gospel that highlight Jesus' resurrection and His victory over death form the motivation and sustaining example for His people to endure suffering as well (1:8-10; 2:8-9).

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-13

“Our Need for Endurance”

Endurance

v. 3 Graphic pictures of... 3 analogies; 2 biographies

v. 10 Great reason for... spread gospel-saved elect

v. 12 Glorious future of... reign with Him in heaven

David Livingstone

“God, send me anywhere, only go with me. Lay any burden on me, only sustain me. And sever any tie in my heart except the tie that binds my heart to Yours.”

“Shall I tell you what supported me through all those years of exile among a people whose language I could not understand and whose attitude toward me was often uncertain and hostile? It was this: ‘Lo! I am with you always, even unto the end of the world’ (Matt. 28:20). It’s the word of a gentleman of the most strict and sacred honor. So, there’s the end of it.”

“My Jesus, my king, my life, my all; I again dedicate my whole self to thee. Accept me, and grant, O Gracious Father, that ere this year is gone I may finish my task. In Jesus’ name I ask it. Amen.”

“People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa...It is emphatically NO sacrifice. Say rather it is a privilege.”

Discuss

- 1) What is the hardest thing you have had to endure in your life?

- 2) Perhaps none of us will face the kind of dramatic trials that David Livingstone faced, but nonetheless, his example of single-minded devotion to Christ is a good example for us. What stands between you and a similar kind of single-minded devotion to Christ?

- 3) How does the gospel enable us to endure suffering? (See especially 2:8-10)

- 4) What are some key ways we can encourage brothers and sisters in Christ who are struggling to endure various trials?

- 5) David Livingstone had a sense of the “lostness” of the people of central Africa. Do you feel that same sense for the people who don’t know Christ in your life?