

Sunday, August 4, 2019

## The Pastoral Epistles

II Timothy 2:8-13 “<sup>8</sup> Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! <sup>10</sup> Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. <sup>11</sup> The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; <sup>12</sup> if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; <sup>13</sup> if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.”

Paul’s command is vital and essential to the Christian: remember the resurrection. It is a key to the gospel. Paul also specifies precisely whom was raised, it is Jesus Christ, the descendent of \_\_\_\_\_.

How important is Jesus’ resurrection to you? Why, or why not?

The resurrection was so important to Paul that he endured suffering, being bound as a criminal for the sake of God’s Word being preached and causing life change among the “elect.”

He goes on to quote the gospel account of Jesus promising fair exchange based on your loyalties. No doubt Paul was a student of scripture, both old and new testaments. The quote is expanded, but the understanding is clear. Christ, then Paul gives evident promise of things to come, but those promises are conditional.

**The promise: eternal life. The condition: death.**

1. If we die with Christ, we will live with Him eternally.

**The promise: position of authority. The condition: faithfulness.**

2. If we remain faithful, we will be given a position of authority (probably a reference to the Millennial Kingdom.)

**The promise: denial by Christ. The condition: Our denial of Christ.**

3. If we deny Christ, He will deny us.

**The promise: Christ’s pursuit of us. No condition.**

4. If we discontinue our faith journey, Christ continues to pursue us, because He is consistent in His character and nature.