

Farewell Message: “Remember Jesus Christ” ~ 2 Timothy 2:1-13

May 7, 2017 ~ New City Church of Calgary ~ Pastor John Ferguson

Intro: Famous Goodbyes

1. Star Wars: “I love you.” “I know.”
2. Terminator: “Hasta la vista, baby.”
3. Casa Blanca: “Here’s looking at you, kid.”
4. Bilbo, LOTR: “I don’t know half of you half as well as I should like; and I like less than half of you half as well as you deserve.”

Paul’s last words to Timothy recorded for us in 2 Timothy. Paul is enduring his second imprisonment on his fourth missionary journey? and he is expecting the end is near for him. “I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith.”

It is now costing something for Christians to follow Jesus. The heat is being turned up. The persecution of Nero is but a few years away, but the groundwork is already being laid. People are abandoning the message of Jesus and abandoning the Apostle Paul, his appointed ambassador to the non-Jewish Roman world.

2:1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

1. Be strengthened by grace....
 - (1) Timothy had been raised knowing the Scriptures which are all about Jesus (1:5).
 - (2) Now he’s called to be strengthened by that same grace.
3. No matter what happens to Paul, Timothy is to carry on the work of the gospel: discipling others and planting churches.

3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

1. Timothy, be prepared to suffer for the cause of Jesus. You are a soldier of Christ Jesus.
 - Jesus suffered, he promised that his followers would suffer, so we shouldn’t be surprised if we face suffering.
 - Cf. John 15:20; Phil. 1:29; 1 Peter 4:12-14
2. Paul calls Timothy to single-minded devotion....

4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. 5 An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. 6 It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. 7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

All three examples are of those who sacrifice and endure.

8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!

1. Remember Jesus Christ... does that sound odd for Paul to say this to a young leader in the church?
 - Is Timothy shrinking back in fear? Is he tempted to water down the message?
2. Remember Jesus Christ risen from the dead...
 - If Jesus rose from the dead, that changes everything.
3. Remember Jesus Christ...the offspring of David.

- Why is this significant? 2 Samuel 7: Jesus is destined to reign over all things.

10 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.

1. If Jesus is risen from the dead and destined to reign over all things, then we can endure anything.
 - 2 Cor. 11:24-28, “Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.”
2. Tim Keller, “If we have the smile of God, all other frowns are inconsequential.”

**11 The saying is trustworthy, for:
If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
12 if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he also will deny us;
13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.**

Conclusion:

My parting words to you are “Remember Jesus Christ.”

If you remember Jesus Christ—keeping him central—then I truly believe NCC’s best days are ahead of her.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your lead pastor for these years. It has been the highest privilege of my life.

In the Lord’s providence, it has come time for us to part ways. I entrust you to our loving and faithful heavenly Father, and to the Lord Jesus who is the Great Shepherd of the Sheep and who promised to build his church.

So my friends, be strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, remember Jesus Christ risen from the dead and destined to reign over all things, and preached in my gospel; and I charge you to proclaim the gospel until your dying breath.