

18th Sunday after Pentecost  
October 9, 2022  
“Sure Confidence in the Gospel of Jesus Christ”  
(2 Timothy 2:8-10)  
By Rev. Ed Weber

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,  
Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today’s text for this 14th Sunday after Pentecost  
is from 2 Timothy 2:8-10

**“8 Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the  
dead according to my gospel, 9 for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even  
to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. 10 Therefore I  
endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the  
salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”**

Here ends our text.

I. Are you sure?

Are you sure about that? How many times in life have you been asked this  
question? Are you sure you want to buy the red one and not the white one? Are  
you sure you want to log in to this website that doesn’t have a high level of  
confidence? Are you sure you want to delete this? It can’t be undone once you  
delete it...

It was the 1993 NFL football season and the Dallas Cowboys had a pretty good  
team with Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin. They also had a brash  
coach named Jimmy Johnson. Before the NFC championship game with the San  
Francisco 49ers, Jimmy said, “We will win the ball game and you can put that in 3-  
inch headlines!”

And they did. And then they went on to win the Superbowl. His confidence level  
was pretty high, but you still have to play the game.

Are you sure you’re going to go to heaven? Can you be sure? Can you put that  
victory in 3-inch headlines?

Paul could and he wrote today's epistle to Timothy and to all believers to assure us of that. "Remember"...Paul says to a young Timothy whenever you have doubts. **"Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel,"**

Paul says "Remember" is in the present tense, which means a constant keeping in mind, remembering every moment of our life. Remember what? That Jesus Christ, true man, of the seed of David, and also true God is permanently raised from the dead!

This is a fact! It happened that Jesus died once and for all for the sins of all people and He rose again to show that God had accepted His sacrifice as full payment for our sins!

Remember this Timothy, Paul is saying **"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."**

Paul wrote this epistle in imprisonment, suffering as a "criminal". What hardships are you suffering that bring doubts into your minds about whether God is with you? When we are weakest, remember that Jesus is risen from the dead. With that fact you can combat any hardship as a good soldier of Jesus. For your victory is assured! It's not just bravado talk. This ball game against sin, death and the devil has been won...by Jesus Christ!

**"This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. 12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him."**

Put that in 3- inch headlines! God's word cannot be broken. God doesn't lie. He is faithful! Even...**"If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."**

"Nothing can separate you from the love of Christ" we heard last week on LWML Sunday. There is no hardship, imprisonment, power, or even death itself that can separate you from your salvation and eternal glory in Jesus!

2. This is my Gospel!

This Word of God **"is not chained."** It continues to work faith and confidence in the believers heart even though some like Paul suffer imprisonment for it. God's faithful word goes forth assuring God's people, the elect, that they can be 100%

confident of going to heaven! **“that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”**

This salvation is in Christ Jesus alone. There is no other way to eternal glory. So we heard three Sundays ago in Paul’s first letter to Timothy 2:5-6.

**“5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all.”**

Christ died for all. He rose for all. God’s Word says in Mark 16:16, **“He who believes and is baptized will be saved;”** And through the hearing and believing of this Word of God, your heart also says “amen”. It is so. It is so for me! So we just sang in verse 2 of hymn 490, “Jesus lives the victory’s won.”

*Jesus lives! To Him the throne  
High above all things is given.  
I shall go where He is gone,  
Live and reign with Him in heaven.  
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!  
This shall be my confidence.*

For this reason, Paul can say this is my Gospel. I’ve been given it by grace. The Lord called me by it to believe in Jesus the Son of God who he had persecuted. He has been entrusted with this Gospel to proclaim, in chains and out of chains. In hardship and without hardship.

And so, believer in Christ, you also make this bold statement of belief – 100% sure! This is my Gospel! You have been saved by grace and have been called into the family of Jesus Christ and have been given His salvation and eternal victory through faith. You have been entrusted with it to remember it always and proclaim it in hardship and suffering and without hardship and suffering. You have been entrusted to live your life with a bold witness and confidence of your eternal destiny! You who have died with Him, ...your sins buried at the cross will live with Him, now and eternally. This shall be my confidence!

This was the confidence of Ruth in our Old Testament reading. A Moabite who turned her back on the false gods of her people and said to her mother-in-law, Naomi:

**“Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people**

**shall be my people, and your God, my God. 17 Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me.”**

Do you think Ruth was sure? She’s saying this is my Gospel too! The one true God has called me to follow Him. And I claim my place in the one true Christian church with the people of God! And so we read in Matthew 1, the first chapter of the New Testament that God made Ruth a great great great...grandmother of Jesus.

### **“Boaz begot Obed by Ruth”**

And in our Gospel reading from today in Luke 17, we hear of another foreigner who with faith said, “This is my Gospel”.

10 lepers were isolated, outcasts from society with an incurable disease at that time. They had no hope of ever returning to their families. They were like the quarantined Covid patients in the early days of the pandemic that could only speak to their loved ones through the glass. The lepers’ lot was to waste away in suffering with no hope in sight.

Until, that is they heard that Jesus passed their way. Standing afar off they raised their voices, **“Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”**

Christ alone could cure them of their leprosy. Christ alone can cure all people of the leprosy of sin. Go show yourselves to the priests, Jesus said. And as they went, they were cleansed.

So, Jesus also cleansed the world of all sin by His death and resurrection. Christ alone is the way to heaven!

And, one of the lepers upon seeing his healing, returned to his Master and Savior and God. This is my Gospel! Christ is my Lord. And he showed his faith by giving thanks. And he was a Samaritan. For the Gospel of God is for all people. This was the Samaritan’s sure confidence. **“Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”** He has been cleansed of his leprosy and cleansed of his sin. He has been made well. He is entrusted with this Gospel. Go now and live with this confidence!

Fellow believer in Christ, saved alone by Christ, you have been made well. Your sins have been forgiven. Put that in 3-inch bold headlines! You have received your salvation and can say with all sureness in the Gospel of Jesus Christ that “you will

go to heaven!” This is my Gospel and yours. This is God’s faithful saying. He cannot deny Himself.

**“For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him.”**

Amen.

**The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your heart and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)**