

“The Unchained Gospel”

2 Timothy 2:1-13

2 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. **2** And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. **3** Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4** No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. **5** Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules. **6** The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. **7** Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this. **8** Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, **9** for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God’s word is not chained. **10** Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

11 Here is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with him, we will also live with him; **12** if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; **13** if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

1. For the sake of the gospel Paul has suffered in chains while imprisoned, but he wrote that the gospel itself is not chained. The message of the gospel, just like our God, is unstoppable. Whatever may come, His purposes will prevail. At this time during this COVID crisis much of the world was (some places still) in lock down, yet God still opens doors and opportunities for the gospel to be shared. Do a SWAT analysis of your life. What are your **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities and **T**hreats as you consider your calling to share the gospel with others during this time? Are there new opportunities that opened up and new creative ways that are needed?
2. What did Steve mean when he described a “Latte Christian” and are you one? Why or why not?
3. As Paul reflects on his suffering for the sake of the gospel, he invites his young protégé Timothy to join him in his suffering. Why?
4. Are you willing to suffer for the sake of the gospel? What does the gospel mean and worth to you personally (no hypotheticals)...is it worth suffering for?
5. How does verse 11-13 encourage you to endure the suffering you will face for the sake of the gospel?