

Day 19, July 23rd

Bible Text: 2 Timothy 2:11-13

By Michael Lim

Reflection:

We may say that the apostle Paul sits on death row for his faithfulness to the gospel (2:8-9), but Paul would say instead that he finds grace to endure (2:12) because of God's faithfulness to His people (2:13). The trustworthy saying (2:11-13) which Paul bequeaths to Timothy, whom he calls "my child" (2:1) and a "good soldier in Christ Jesus" (2:3), exhorts Timothy and all believers to hold fast to four truths that stand forever due to the faithfulness of God who "cannot deny Himself" (2:13; Rom. 3:3-4):

- a) Those who are unified with Jesus in death also live with him forever (Rom. 6:8-11)
 - b) Those who endure to the end following Jesus in suffering possess a sure promise of victory with Jesus. (as Paul himself does in 2:10; also 4:7-8)
 - c) Those who endure to the end denying Jesus will face Jesus' denial at the judgment (Matt. 10:13)
 - d) Those who fall into temporary unfaithfulness will face the open arms of a faithful Jesus with a sure promise of forgiveness in Jesus (1 Jn. 1:9).
1. What storms and sufferings test your endurance to follow Jesus to the end? What tests CBCM's endurance to follow Jesus?
 2. How is the Holy Spirit providing comfort or conviction through this trustworthy saying for yourself and on behalf of CBCM?
 3. What generational impacts do our endurance as a testimony to God's faithfulness have on the next generations in our personal and spiritual families?

Closing Prayer:

Father, thank you that are beside us through trials, so that our faith may be tested unto our endurance to the end. Thank you for Jesus, Your Son whom You did not spare from His appointed suffering. We praise Jesus that he endured to the end. Thank you for his victory over our enemies who seek to destroy us by making us fall away, making us doubt Your eternal faithfulness. But You are my strong tower, a place to run to in the storm, and a fortress which protects and makes me strong in Christ, so that I may be sent back out together with my church, ready to bear our cross and await our crown with joy.

Recommended Song of Reflection: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

<https://youtu.be/1v6aZiDzhVE?si=YTJfOT6vPQIrUVWd>