

Series: The Essential Church; *Sermon:* **No Pain, No Gain;**
Delivered on June 30, 2019, by Dan Hiben, junior high pastor

Bible text explored: 2 Timothy 2:8–13

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. ¹¹The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

for he cannot deny himself. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. How (v. 8) does the *remembering* the Bible calls for go well beyond simply recalling something forgotten?
In reflecting on the person of Jesus the Messiah preached by Paul — how did the “earth-shattering reality” of his resurrection from the dead underscore his divinity?
How did his descent from King David underscore his humanity, making him able to rightfully become our substitute?
2. How is the Lord’s Supper a tangible way for his disciples to corporately remember these basics of the gospel? (See *Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:26.*)
3. As a chained prisoner, what conviction (vv.9-10) about the gospel kept Paul’s faith strong?
On what purpose for others did he remain focused?
4. How had Saul of Tarsus been transformed from a persecutor of Christians to a persecuted believer himself? (See *Acts 26:9-18; 9:13-16.*)
How did he express this 180-degree shift of his mindset? (See *Phil. 3:7-10.*)
5. Pastor Hiben quoted Jim Elliot, martyred in Ecuador in 1956, as writing, “*He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.*”
What costs are we open to enduring so that others might come to Jesus?
6. Since we have died with Christ, what promise does the trustworthy saying Paul cites (vv. 11-13) provide? (See *Rom. 6:4-5.*)
What reward for endurance can we anticipate? (See *Heb. 10:35-36.*)
Why is the warning (of v. 12b) sobering? (See also, *Matt. 10:32-33.*)
But how does v. 13 point us to how God’s faithfulness is able to prevail?
7. How was Peter’s desperate denial reversed through Jesus’ restoring touch? (See *Luke 22:55-62; John 21:15-19.*)