

## Suffering with Christ (28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C)

### 2 Timothy 2:8-13—Paul in Chains

<sup>8</sup> Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David, as preached in *my gospel*, <sup>9</sup> *the gospel for which I am suffering and wearing fetters like a criminal. But the word of God is not fettered.* <sup>10</sup> Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory. <sup>11</sup> The saying is sure:

*If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;  
<sup>12</sup> if we endure, we shall also reign with him;  
if we deny him, he also will deny us;  
<sup>13</sup> if we are faithless, he remains faithful—  
for he cannot deny himself.* (2 Tim 2:8-13)

1. Paul's "Gospel": "my gospel" (2:8) and "the gospel" (2:9)
2. Prison Epistle: "for which I am suffering and wearing fetters" (2:9)
3. Death: (baptismal) death leads to life ("we shall also live with him") (2:11; cf. Rom 6)
4. Patience: if we "endure," we shall "reign" (2:12)
5. Apostasy: if we "deny him" he will "deny us" (2:12)
6. Infidelity: if we are "faithless," he is still "faithful" (Greek *pistos*) (2:13)

### Living Tradition

John Chrysostom: But now God has made us such that nothing can subdue us. For our hands are bound but not our tongue, since nothing can bind the tongue but cowardice and unbelief. Where these are not, though you fasten chains upon us, the preaching of the gospel is not bound. (John Chrysostom, *Homilies on 2 Timothy 4*; trans. NPNF)

John Chrysostom: I beseech you, let us so perform all our actions that we may not fail to obtain such glory as this. To obtain it is by no means difficult, if we desire it, or arduous, if we apply ourselves to it. For, "if we endure, we shall also reign" [2 Tim 2:12]. *What is the meaning of "If we endure"?* *If we patiently bear tribulations and persecutions; if we walk the narrow path.* The narrow path is unattractive by nature but becomes easy when we choose to follow it, because of our hope for the future. (John Chrysostom, *Homilies on John 87.3*; trans. Sr. Thomas Aquinas Goggin, S.C.H.)

**Questions for Discussion and Reflection (28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C)**

1. What does Paul mean when he says that “if we endure” we shall also “reign” with Christ? Why does Paul put so much emphasis on suffering “*with*” Christ?

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**For Further Reading**

1. George T. Montague, S.M. *First and Second Timothy, Titus*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2008.
2. Peter Gorday, *Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP, 2000.