

Trinity News

21st After Pentecost Key Words of Faith II Timothy 2:8-15

Remember Jesus Christ raised from the dead, a descendant of David. That is my Gospel (II Timothy 2:8)

Resurrection:

The Resurrection is the key to unraveling the life of Christ. It was not something that he did, but something done to him by the Father through the "Spirit of holiness" (Romans 1:4). It vindicated his ministry and his Sonship and created a framework for the distinctive belief of Christians in the Holy Trinity. Jesus did not have to go to God. He was already there while he was with us. Resurrection is not so much 'going to heaven' as it is an extension of what we know and experience now as believers. Resurrection is earthly belief stamped with eternal identity.

Messiah: A Divine figure with human vulnerability.

The Messianic promise given to the House of David is enacted by Jesus in the Gospels. If he is not the Messiah then he goes away and fades into oblivion. But he does not disappear, and he reappears as the Risen One in every believer. Only Messiah/Son of God could have that capacity to sustain and mould and nurture our faith by appearing in and through us.

Salvation:

A saying amongst the early Christians describes salvation very well:

"If we have died with him, we shall also live with him
If we endure, we shall also reign with him
If we deny him, he will deny us,
If we are faithless, he remains faithful
For he cannot deny himself" (II Timothy 2:11-13)

Salvation means living with Christ on earth and in heaven. It is not a badge of honor but a fulfilled expectation. It fulfills one of our deepest longings. That is, to never lose our identity, even though we are mortal. It requires endurance, living with our failures to honor our faith, and trusting the One who is faithful even when we are not, because he cannot deny his offer of love and salvation to humanity.

We live in trust and we end in hope. When we observe the one thankful leper in Luke we have to recall that one out of ten was sufficient for Jesus when he healed ten lepers. He noted the others who walked away without a word of thanks to him but there is no condemnation of them. The healing was given without thought of reward. Christ is concerned for those who walk away, but it does not impact on him personally. His compassion remains unhindered.

We cannot deny who we are in ourselves. There is no room for growth in that betrayal of our own integrity. We are a resurrection people who trust in a Risen Lord. The world is still like Good Friday, but that is never the last word. Let us be truly ourselves, and rejoice in those rare moments of utter freedom when we achieve it, even for a brief space of time. Without the compassion of Christ, faith would be a burden. Without the insights of faith, hope and love in Christ, we could be a burden to ourselves. But if we endure and grow, we will rise above it all!

Bishop Arthur Jones

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 100
Philippians 4:4-9; Luke 8:4-8

COMING UP:

- **October 20.** Harvest Sunday.
- **November 10.** Remembrance Sunday (9:30 service)
- **November 17.** NCCP Sunday (9:30 service)
- **November 24. Christ the King.**
 - ⇒ Stewardship Sunday
 - ⇒ Joint Ecumenical Thanksgiving service @ Union Church Manila, 7:30pm