

Keep the Faith

I am not ashamed

2 Tim 1:8-18

- Overview:

"Not Ashamed" of the Gospel or God's servants. Join with others in their suffering for the Gospel, guard what has been entrusted, be like Paul's friend who didn't abandon him but sought him out when he was suffering.

2 Tim 1:8-18

⁸ So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. ⁹ He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.

2 Tim 1:8-18

¹² That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

¹³ What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

¹⁵ You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

2 Tim 1:8-18

¹⁶ May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. ¹⁷ On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. ¹⁸ May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

Four characteristics of a Spirit-filled believer

- Boldness - not fear or cowardice
- Power - a special strength to take on those who oppose the Gospel or the false teachers
- Love - the way boldness is wielded, guides the application of power
- Self-discipline/control - need it to put all this into effect

Timidity, being ashamed

- Example of Peter
- If we do not fan the flame of these giftings, our **natural tendency towards timidity can lead to shame.**
- For the early Christians, the Jews considered their devotion to Christ as blasphemous and the Gentiles thought it ridiculous.
- So it was an easy step into timidity, shame, and convenient avoidance.

Timidity, being ashamed

- Paul talking about both being ashamed of the Lord and of himself in prison
- Timothy - pulling back? Protecting himself? Allowing the loud voices to have their way?

The testimony of our Lord and of me his prisoner

- Testify: tell, explain.
- Story of the Lamb in Revelation, and his followers
- Would you remain faithful if you had no external reason for doing so?
- Who is able to open the scroll? John is told:
 - The Lion of Judah, the Root of David.
- But what does he actually see?
 - The slaughtered Lamb

The people of God

- Hears the number of those who are sealed, 144000
- But what does he see? A multitude, all of the people of God.
- They washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb
- What does it mean to align with the Lamb? To follow him into conflict with the Dragon
- How does the seal protect them? From being overwhelmed by the evil one

How did they overcome?

- They overcome by the blood of the lamb and their identifying with Him
- They overcome by the word of their testimony
- This speaking it has power!

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Paul's Example

- His commission - his “reason” for his willingness to suffer
 - Herald
 - Apostle
 - Teacher
- His suffering
 - A personal note
 - Deplorable conditions
 - Death around the corner
 - Loneliness
 - Mix of gloom and joy

Paul's Example

- Perhaps worried about the future of the church if Timothy doesn't step up.
- Reminds him to not be ashamed, that he has faced similar problems.
 - He knows whom he has believed.
 - He is in the company of Jesus, sharing in his suffering
- Paul is confident that God has been watching of his ministry and his suffering.

Sound teaching as the Model to follow

- *13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.*
- Model what you've heard from Paul
- Guard the deposit. Timidity has no place when the Spirit is in it.
- God's ambassadors - the Godhead with us wherever we go

Examples of being afraid/ashamed

- All have deserted me
- Particularly Phygelus and Hermogenes
- Ashamed of his arrest and imprisonment, likely were close to him so their defection more painful

Example of not being afraid/ashamed

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Example of not being afraid/ashamed

- Onesiphorus
 - “Refreshed me”
 - “Not ashamed of my chains”
 - “Found me”
 - A model of sticking with our friends, especially when things are bad or painful

Summary - What's most important?

- Use the gifts
- Be not ashamed
- Associate with the Lamb
- Don't be afraid
- God protects his own from the evil one
- Guard the teaching
- Don't abandon your friends