

Equipped
FOR THE FIGHT

Be Not Ashamed

2 Timothy 1:8-18

Lesson 17

No matter what happens in the world around us, you and I should never be ashamed of Jesus Christ or what we believe as Christians. Paul not only reminds Timothy of that fact in our portion of scripture this week, but he actually commands him not to be ashamed (v. 8). Timothy was exhorted not to be embarrassed because he followed a crucified Master. Nor should he feel humiliated because his mentor, Paul, was a prisoner, or because he willingly lived like a servant and put the needs of others ahead of his own.

Paul was not ashamed of his suffering. He was able to hold his head high in the face adversity and unjust treatment from people because he knew without a doubt in whom he believed. Paul's confidence was not in what he believed, but in who he believed in. He believed in Jesus Christ, not in himself, his education, special gifting or anything else other than the person of Jesus. Paul had a lifetime of experiences to draw upon of how Jesus met him and carried him through. Now, at the end of his life, imprisoned in a dungeon, Paul believed that Jesus would be no less present or helpful.

Remember, it is not enough to know doctrine or theology or religious rules and regulations. If you are ever going to make it through your difficult days, it will be because you too know in whom you believe. In this life, we will face rough and challenging times. You may lose your job, be overlooked for a higher paid position, perhaps lose a dear friend or face suffering of some nature. It is then that you will need to stand fast and hold on to Jesus in whom you believe. And like Timothy, we will need to abandon fear and trust that the Holy Spirit will provide all the courage and strength we need to endure and walk in victory.

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

This Week's Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:8-18

"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, ¹⁰but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. ¹²For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. ¹³Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. ¹⁵This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain; ¹⁷but when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and found me. ¹⁸The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day—and you know very well how many ways he ministered to me at Ephesus."
NKJV

This Week's Memory Verse:

"For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day." 2 Timothy 1:12

1. According to verse 8 of this week's scripture, what should Timothy not be ashamed of? _____

- a. Why is it so important that we not be ashamed, according to Romans 1:16? _____

2. Verse 8 also states that we may have to suffer for the sake of Christ. What does 1 Peter 4:12-14 tell us about suffering and trials? _____

“How did Jesus expect His disciples to react under persecution? (In Matthew 5:12 He said), ‘Rejoice and be glad!’ We are not to retaliate like an unbeliever, nor sulk like a child, nor lick our wound in self-pity like a dog, nor just grin and bear it like a Stoic, still less pretend we enjoy it like a masochist. What then? We are to rejoice as a Christian should and even ‘leap for joy’ (Lk. 6:23).”

– John Stott (1921-2011)

In the NLT, 2 Timothy 1:9 states, *“For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus.”*

3. What reason is given in 1 Peter 2:9 for living this holy life? _____

Group Discussion

If you have received Christ as your Savior, you are amongst those mentioned in 1 Peter 2:9. Do you consider yourself one of God’s very own possessions? Does this give you comfort? Why or why not? _____

4. According to verse 11 of this week’s passage, what was Paul appointed to do? _____

- a. What was the result of this calling (v. 12a)? _____
- b. What gave Paul courage, according to verse 12b? _____

- c. How does John 10:28-29 reinforce this truth? _____

“In vain I have searched the Bible, looking for examples of early believers whose lives were marked by rigidity, predictability, inhibition, dullness, and caution. Fortunately, grim, frowning, joyless saints in Scriptures are conspicuous by their absence. Instead, the examples I find are of adventurous, risk-taking, enthusiastic, and authentic believers whose joy was contagious even in times of full trial. Their vision was broad even when death drew near. Rules were few and changes were welcome. The contrast between then and now is staggering.”

– Chuck Swindoll

5. What was Timothy to hold fast to, according to verses 13-14? _____

- a. Another word for “pattern” would be “imitate”. Who are we to ultimately imitate, according to Ephesians 5:1? _____
- b. What are we to imitate, according to Ephesians 5:2? _____

6. Paul finishes this portion of scripture with a sad commentary of those who had abandoned him in his time of need. Look up the encouragement that we find in 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 and fill in the following blanks.
- a. We are hard pressed on every side, yet _____
- b. We are perplexed, but _____
- c. Persecuted, but _____
- d. Struck down, but _____
- e. With these statements in mind, should we fear persecution? No, but we are human and given to human weakness. Read John 16:33 and write out the promise Jesus gives us.

- f. How does this promise encourage you? _____

