



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## DO NOT BE ASHAMED OF JESUS CHRIST! – 2 TIMOTHY 1:8

WYOMING

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Paul passes the baton of the gospel ministry to Timothy in the midst of the most difficult times when the penalty for that faithfulness was death. Timothy had proven himself over and over. His faith had been tested time and time again and found genuine, real and true. And so Paul writes to Timothy in the second letter affirming his sincere, genuine and rich faith. Clearly he is concerned for Timothy as he writes because of the harsh persecution towards believers under Emperor Nero. So he reminds Timothy not to be afraid and that the product of a sincere faith is a faithful service, so kindle afresh the gift of God and use those gifts to preach the Word. He commends Timothy to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ no matter the cost. How can Timothy do this amidst such great opposition? Well, Paul reminds Timothy of the great resources available from God to all believers and then exhorts him to fulfill the ministry to which he has been called by God.

### I. DO NOT BE ASHAMED! – 2 TIMOTHY 1:8

*2 Timothy 1:8, "Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God."*

Paul wants to remind this young pastor to renew his God given commitment to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, defend the truth of the faith and faithfully shepherd the believers that God had entrusted him with. Paul exhorted Timothy to constantly and continually put into use the gift of God even if it's hard, even when you might have to suffer for using this gift, even if you are imprisoned, keep it on full flame and kindle afresh. We can shrink back from fulfilling our calling because we are afraid. But, fear has no place in God's service because are saying we don't trust God. Fear never comes from God. Fear is paralyzing and keeps us from being bold for Christ. When we are fearful and vacillating, we must know that our trust is not on God but rather ourselves, our abilities, our circumstances rather than on the Lord Jesus Christ and all that He has given us to carry out ministry in spite of hardships. Paul then reminds Timothy of three resources God has given him.

#### A. "THEREFORE..." – 2 TIMOTHY 1:8A

Because of God's great provision of power which overcomes all fear, of love which casts out any fear and of a sound mind that keeps perspective and controls fear through truth rather than being controlled by it, Paul now calls Timothy to not be ashamed of Jesus Christ and join in suffering for His gospel; the good news of salvation through Christ to the world. The inevitable cost of godly living will be suffering to which Paul counted it a privilege rather than a sacrifice.

#### B. "THEREFORE DO NOT BE ASHAMED..." – 2 TIMOTHY 1:8B

Remember, being associated with Christianity or Paul as a leader in the faith, most certainly could bring persecution, imprisonment and even death. So Paul called on Timothy to not be ashamed, don't be afraid to name the name of Christ or to be counted as a friend of Paul. Paul will use this phrase three times in chapter one; 2 Timothy 1:8, 12, 16. It's not a difficult phrase to understand, but more a challenge to live.

"do not be ashamed" Greek *μηδ' εἰσχυνησῶμαι* a negative subjunctive used as an imperative which is a warning or exhortation against doing a thing not yet begun. It refers to being embarrassed, afraid, more in regard to what other people will think, a reaction due to public ridicule, fear of ridicule by others.

The idea here of shame is a reaction to public ridicule or possible danger. This represents a powerful fear that all too often motivates one to conform to the world rather than follow Jesus Christ. We shrink back from being bold for the gospel and give in to the pressure and fear from the world. So Paul charges Timothy with this strong imperative against being ashamed even if people deride, ridicule and even put him in prison for preaching Jesus Christ.

Paul calls Timothy to a commitment that doesn't care what the world thinks. Timothy knows the mandate God has on his life as a pastor and therefore Paul exhorts Timothy to speak and live, in spite of the consequences for boldly proclaiming and standing for Jesus Christ. Paul calls Timothy to an uncompromising commitment to Jesus Christ regardless of the dangers or difficulties.

"Do not be ashamed" Timothy. Be courageous, unapologetic and an obedient witness of Jesus Christ no matter what the cost or consequence. Preach without compromise, teach without hesitation exhort without fear of reprisal from people. It is this attitude that is indispensable for effective ministry. Do not shrink back from fulfilling your ministry in spite of what it may cost.

This is the attitude of a courageous witness as expressed by David in these Psalms:

- Psalm 40:9-10- *"I have proclaimed glad tidings of righteousness in the great congregation; behold, I will not restrain my lips, O Lord, Thou knowest. I have not hidden Thy righteousness within my heart; I have spoken of Thy faithfulness and Thy salvation. I have not concealed Thy lovingkindness and Thy truth from the great congregation."*
- Psalm 71:15-16- *"My mouth shall tell of Thy righteousness and of Thy salvation all day long; for I do not know the sum of them. I will*

### BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 6:AM, HERSCHLER BUILDING, COMMONS

# Wyoming

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*come with the mighty deeds of the Lord God. I will make mention of Thy righteousness, Thine alone.”*

- Psalm 119:46- *“I will speak of Thy testimonies before kings, and shall not be ashamed.”*

If we lack spiritual courage and commitment we will not speak and act effectively for the Lord. The most familiar example in Scripture of being ashamed of Christ is Peter and his denial during Jesus’ trial before the high priest Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin. All the disciples fled when Jesus was arrested (Matthew 26:56-75), but Peter followed at a distance sitting outside in the courtyard to see what would happen. While there he was questioned three times if he was with Jesus. And three times Peter denied that he even knew Jesus Christ even to the point of cursing and swearing to that fact. Upon realizing his words, he went out and wept bitterly, seeking forgiveness for his denial. He was ashamed of Jesus Christ at that point, afraid of what others would think and even more what they might do to him if they knew he was a disciple of Jesus Christ. Yet his life was truly transformed through the resurrection power of Christ and he proclaimed Jesus boldly to the world, dying a martyr’s death by being hung upside down on a cross. He didn’t feel worthy to die as his Lord so he asked to be hung upside down. Peter was never again ashamed of Jesus Christ nor the power of the gospel to save souls. And he would later write in 1 Peter 4:16, *“If you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.”*

In Hebrews 2:11 we are told that Jesus is not ashamed to call us his brothers. How could we be so fortunate? Paul would write in his letter to the Romans, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.”* (Romans 1:16) Later in 2 Timothy, Paul wrote, *“but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”* Paul had unashamed boldness for the cause of Christ. It did not matter who despised him. No threat of harm could keep him from fulfilling the call God had on his life. He treasured Christ, lived for Christ and was willing to die for the Lord Jesus Christ.

During the Boxer Rebellion in China (1899-1900), extreme nationalist Chinese formed a campaign of terror against officials of foreign governments, Christian missionaries and even Chinese Christians. One day, after they surrounded a certain mission station, they sealed all exits except one. They placed a cross on the dirt in front of the opened gate and told the missionaries and students that anyone who walked out and trampled the cross would be spared. According to reports, the first seven students who departed trampled the cross and were sent on their way. The eighth student, a young girl, approached the cross, knelt down, prayed for strength and then carefully walked around the cross. She was immediately shot to

death. The remaining 92 students, strengthened by that girl’s courageous example, also walked around the cross to their deaths.

What gave this girl and all believers through history the courage and strength to *“join with Paul in suffering for the gospel”*? (2 Timothy 1:8) It is the provision of God found in 2 Timothy 1:7 of power which overcomes fear, the love of God which casts out fear and the discipline of a sound mind controlled by the Holy Spirit which controls fear instead of being controlled by it.

In the verses that follow 2 Timothy 1:8, Paul reminds Timothy of the truths of salvation which must be the motivation for all of us to a faithful, courageous witness as we live for Jesus Christ. Paul’s security was found in the certainty of his salvation and the close, unbroken relationship with Jesus Christ to Whom Paul unreservedly gave his life. But we must not be blind to the fact that often the price for Divine duty is affliction by the world because they don’t want to hear the truth.

### C. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, God is not ashamed to call you His brother. (Hebrew 2:11) Have you been ashamed to call Him your Lord and Savior in front of others?

Do you care what others think? Do you lack spiritual courage and commitment in an environment where people you walk the halls with think you are crazy for being a Christian? Does the fear of ridicule cause you to even hesitate and shrink back from proclaiming Jesus Christ not just with your walk but also with your words?

What keeps you from speaking of God’s grace and righteousness?

Do you compromise the gospel message to make it more appealing?

Think about it and if you have, follow Peter’s example by falling on your knees, repenting and weeping bitterly at the denial of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to Whom we owe our life and breath. And be reminded once again of the truths Paul writes about and lives unashamedly for:

*“Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who 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 granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”*

2 Timothy 1:8-12