



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

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

WYOMING

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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.

I. DO NOT BE ASHAMED, JOIN IN SUFFERING!—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."

Timothy must have been so encouraged by Paul's opening words of affirmation and affections for him. Now Paul calls on Timothy to keep the faith with a courageous, unapologetic and obedient witness for 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 which is indispensable for effective ministry. Do not shrink back from fulfilling your ministry in spite of what it may cost. Do not be ashamed, even if people deride, ridicule or put you in prison for preaching Jesus Christ. "Do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner..."

A. "THE TESTIMONY OF OUR LORD"—2 TIMOTHY 1:8B

Paul exhorts Timothy never to be ashamed of the "testimony of our Lord." What is the "testimony" of our Lord? It is the declaration that makes something known, the witness, the infallible proof of truth. And Whose testimony is Paul concerned about? Of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; the One Who has absolute authority to rule and reign and is Lord and Master of all! Paul exhorts Timothy that even if people deride, ridicule or put you in prison for declaring the truth about Jesus Christ; His death on a cross for our sins, His resurrection, ascension and certain return, never be ashamed or even hesitate from declaring the whole truth regardless of how it might be received. Paul calls Timothy to an uncompromising commitment to Jesus Christ regardless of the dangers or difficulties because it is this testimony we declare which is "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..." (Romans 1:16). We must not be ashamed of the "testimony of our Lord".

B. "OR OF ME HIS PRISONER..." – 2 TIMOTHY 1:8C

Remember, being associated with Paul as a leader in the Christian faith, most certainly could bring persecution, imprisonment and even death. In spite of this, Paul calls 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 who was in prison because of Jesus Christ. Clearly

Paul understood he was in Nero's dungeon, but Jesus Christ was his captor. Paul knew Who was sovereignly in charge and it was the Lord, the One Who rules and reigns. And he was not ashamed of his chains and didn't want Timothy to be either. Paul exhorts Timothy to speak and live, in spite of the consequences for boldly proclaiming and standing for Jesus Christ. Even if people deride, ridicule or put you in prison like me, for our common faith in the Lord, you must share and declare without compromise no matter the cost. In fact, Paul goes one step further in this verse by exhorting Timothy to "join with me in suffering for the gospel..."

C. "JOIN WITH ME IN SUFFERING..." – 2 TIMOTHY 1:8D

Paul invites Timothy to partake, suffer together for the gospel of Jesus Christ. We must be reminded that Paul saw hardship and suffering for Jesus Christ in this life as a privilege and not a sacrifice. Remember his words in Philippians 1:29, "For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake." And Paul also knew that suffering for Jesus Christ would bring God glory and further the proclamation of the gospel, "Now I want you to know brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel..." (Philippians 1:12) Paul also wanted to remind Timothy that the cost for godly living would inevitably be suffering and persecution, "And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." (2 Timothy 3:12) Peter would later write in his book of 1 Peter 2:21-22, "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps Who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth..."

The thought has been expressed that this first century theology of Paul's needs to be impressed on our 21st century thinking where a health, wealth and prosperity doctrine is widely taught. What a contrast from Paul's testimony found in 2 Corinthians 6:4-7, "but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in affliction, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger..." Paul reminds Timothy that as believers in Jesus Christ suffering for the gospel is inevitable. Even Jesus said in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace, in the world you have tribulation, but take courage, I have overcome the world."

D. "SUFFERING FOR THE GOSPEL..." – 2 TIMOTHY 1:8E

It is important to note that Paul isn't referring to just any hardship or trial. Rather, Paul specifically is referring to suffering for the "gospel", suffering adversity for preaching the Word, teaching a repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. He isn't

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referring to suffering for any other reason. As we have seen, opposition to the gospel will produce persecution. So Paul invites Timothy to participate with him in suffering for the proclamation of the gospel.

In 2 Timothy, Paul will refer to the gospel and suffering many times over. And we will take a closer look at both of these key words as we study this book for we have much to learn about adversity and the good news of the gospel. In fact, Paul reminds Timothy of the truth about our salvation in the next couple of verses. As we remember our great salvation, that will motivate us to gratefulness and faithfulness. And as we are faithful to preach and share the complete gospel message, suffering will follow because often the price for divine duty is affliction by the world.

E. “ACCORDING TO THE POWER OF GOD...” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:8F

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.”

Finally in 2 Timothy 1:8 Paul answers the question as to how we are to suffer for the gospel, “according to the power of God.” The power of God will enable us to bear up under suffering. God’s divine help is available to every believer as we persevere and endure through trials. Read the following verses and be encouraged that the God Who saves us is also able to keep us through the storm.

- ❖ Colossians 1:10-11: *“So that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience...”*
- ❖ Jude 24: *“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy...”*
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 12:9-10: *“And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insult, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”*
- ❖ Philippians 4:13: *“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”*
- ❖ 2 Peter 1:3: *“Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him Who called us by His own glory and excellence.”*

- ❖ Ephesians 1:18-21: *“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when he raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come.”*

So how are we called to suffer? According to the provision which has been granted to us through Jesus Christ. And what is that provision given to every believer? It is the power of God which raised Christ from the dead that is at work in our lives to strengthen us and enable us persevere through suffering and affliction. God’s divine help is available to every believer and because of the power of God, we can endure suffering. And God’s graciousness is ours in abundance, there for our every need.

F. WHAT ABOUT YOU? – 2 TIMOTHY 1:8

Have you been ashamed of the testimony of our Lord? Is the gospel message of repentance from sin and salvation found in no one else but Jesus Christ a little too hard for you to share? Is it too narrow?

Are you hesitant to share the whole gospel, leaving out some parts because it might be offensive if you talk about sin? Are you willing to declare the whole truth of the gospel to those who are unsaved?

Are you sometimes afraid, ashamed to name the name of Christ even if it costs?

Do you view suffering for Christ as a privilege like Paul did?

Suffering is a result of living godly in Christ? What examples do you have from your own life that verifies this truth?

Do you really believe that you can do all things through Christ Who gives you strength?

Paul called on Timothy to share in suffering for Jesus Christ and to not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord. And this is no less a call to every believer. Are you willing to suffer together for the sake of the gospel if that’s what is required?

What will enable you to endure hardships and afflictions for being a Christian?