

Courageous Calling

(The Christian)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, March 23/24, 2019 Ray Davis

2 Timothy 1:1-18 “COURAGE”

The Apostle Paul is awaiting trial and certain death and is passing on the ministry torch to young Pastor Timothy. This second letter reads like a coaches half-time motivational and instructional talk. When you consider the high stakes of heaven and hell, shrinking back from our calling as a Christian is not an option. This series will teach and motivate us to more fully embrace our Courageous Calling as Christians.

Big Idea: Fan into flame God's gift—of unashamed courage to speak openly and suffer willingly for the Gospel. vv8, 12, 16
“Unashamed” (This idea is throughout 2 Timothy)

HOW TO HAVE UNASHAMED COURAGE?

- It begins with a sincere faith. V5; Eph2:8-9; James 2:14-26
- That is fanned into a white-hot flame. v6; Rom12:11; Rev3:16

- Producing Power, Love and Self-control. v7

“Fear” = Gr. (delilia) cowardice, fearfulness, embarrassment, shame, weakness, frailty.

“Power” = Gr. (dunamis) It means might or dynamic energy producing results regardless of the opposition. Acts 1:8; Eph1:19-20; Rom8:11

“Love” = Gr. (agape) It is the highest kind of love. It is much more than feelings. You don't fall into this kind of love. You commit to it and promise to be there no matter what. John 15:13; 1John 4:18

“Self-control” = Gr. (sophronismos) It is not an exercise of your will over your feelings. It is not a matter of the will but a matter of the heart. Our thoughts, feelings and actions all flow out of our heart's loves. They are all controlled by what we love and find most beautiful, valuable and good. Gal5:22-23; John16:14; Pro25:28; Gen29:20

WHY CAN WE HAVE UNASHAMED COURAGE? BECAUSE...

- The Gospel is Rational. vv8-10; Rom1:16-17
- The Gospel is Relational. vv11-12; Josh1:9; Isa41:10
- Guard against Gospel Amnesia. vv13-14

CHALLENGE: vv15-18

- Which team will you be on: Cowardly or Courageous?
- Associate with everyone but hang with those who stir up unashamed courage for the Gospel! 1Cor15:33

Growing Notes

- 1) Often when most people think of courage, they think of extreme acts of heroism that attracts media attention—rescuing someone from a burning building or saving a drowning child from a lake, etc. Not to minimize those acts of bravery but every day we make choices that show whether we are courageous or cowardly as we face life's challenges. Explain.
- 2) Read the intro to this sermon of the background to this series. What are your thoughts and feelings? Read 2 Timothy 1:1-18. What kind of faith did Timothy have and where did he get it (v5)? What kind of spirit does God give to His people (v7)? What does Paul say about the Gospel (vv8-10)? Why was Paul not ashamed of the Gospel (vv11-12)? What was Timothy to guard (v14)? What comparison did Paul make (vv15-18)?
- 3) How can we have unashamed courage for the Gospel (vv5-7)? What is a sincere faith (v5)? What are some things you can do regularly to fan into white-hot flame your faith (v6)? What are the three characteristics God provides us with from our spiritual account (v7)?
- 4) Why can we have unashamed courage for the Gospel (vv8-14)? The Gospel is head (intellectually) sound (vv8-10) and heart (experientially) satisfying (vv11-12). Explain. What is gospel amnesia and why should we guard against it (vv13-14)? How does Paul show us the difference between cowardice and courage (vv15-18)? What is God speaking to you through this study? Pray.