

DON'T BE ASHAMED
2 Timothy 1:1-12
3/12/17

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-12

2 Timothy was written during difficult days.

Christians were being mocked, rejected, and persecuted.

In 2 Timothy the Apostle Paul is sitting in prison in Rome awaiting execution for his Christian faith.

This is the second time that Paul is imprisoned in Rome.

The first time he had been only under house arrest and had opportunity for interaction with people.

This time, however he is locked in chains (2:9), in a cold cell (2 Tim. 4:13), with no hope of deliverance (4:6).

He has been abandoned by most of those close to him because they feared persecution (cf. 1:15; 4:9-12, 16)

He is facing imminent martyrdom. (around 67AD)

2 Timothy is his final message to Timothy and to us.

Paul feared that Timothy and others might weaken in their spiritual resolve because the opposition that they were confronting.

In addition to a hostile community and persecution from the Roman government . . .

Timothy was facing opposition from some in the church at Ephesus who resented his leadership.

Hymenaeus had been disciplined out of the church but he was still causing problems. (1 Timothy 1:20 cf 2 Timothy 2:16-17)

Timothy was also confronting the influence of false teachers within the church.

Though we don't currently face the same type of persecution that Paul and Timothy were confronting, we are living in an environment that is becoming increasingly hostile toward Christians.

More and more people seem to be a hostile and condescending toward religion in general and Christianity in particular.

The internet bristles with the contempt and hostility of angry atheists.

Some teachers and professors openly ridicule those who believe in God or the Bible.

It is easy to become embarrassed to stand up for our faith.

Afraid of what people might think

Afraid of how it might affect our social standing, our popularity at school, or our success in business.

It is easy to be intimidated and ashamed . . .

To share our faith with a friend, co-worker, or family member

To quietly pray for our meal in public

To tell our friends that we can't go with them to a particular place or event because of our commitment to Christ

To express our views about various moral issues

Paul is encouraging Timothy and us to not be fearful and ashamed of the gospel, but to boldly press on.

1. Kindle afresh the gift of God. 1:1-7

a. In light of those who love you and who have invested in you. vv. 1-5

1-2 God had granted Paul grace, mercy, and peace and prays the same for Timothy

3-4 The apostle Paul loved Timothy and had invested his life in him.

Paul was Timothy's spiritual father

He had mentored and cared for him.

Paul constantly remembered him and prayed for him.

5 Timothy's mother and grandmother were committed Christians who cared for him.

Timothy is also told to "kindle afresh the gift of God" . . .

b. Because of your sincere faith v. 5

Sincere means genuine

c. Because of the gift of God which is in you v. 6

- Through the laying on of my hands

This is not referring to the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to each of us at the moment we are saved. (evangelism, teaching, service, etc.) cf 1 Corinthians 12:11,18

This is speaking of Timothy's ordination to pastoral ministry.

Timothy is fourthly told to "**Kindle afresh the gift of God**" . . .

d. Because God has not given us a spirit timidity but of power, love, and discipline v. 7

Not of timidity (deilia) - fear, cowardice, one who flees from conflict

Fear doesn't come from God.

God's Spirit gives us power, love, and discipline

Power-boldness.

Love- is the opposite of selfishness

- ◆ Selfishness creates fear.
- ◆ Love casts out fear. (1 John 4:18)
- ◆ It is our love for our others that makes us willing to endure insults and persecution and to repay our enemies with kindness.

Discipline - sound judgment, self-control

Not consumed by fear

Verses 8-12 Don't be ashamed or embarrassed about your faith in God.

2. Don't be ashamed but be willing to suffer for the gospel. 1:8-12

2 Timothy 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

During the Boxer Rebellion (1899-1900) extreme nationalist Chinese were killing all foreigners including missionaries. They also killed Chinese Christians. They surrounded one mission

station and placed a cross on the ground at the front gate. They told the missionaries and students that anyone who trampled on the cross would be spared. The first 7 students who went out trampled on the cross and were free to go. The eighth student was a young girl. As she approached the cross she knelt down, prayed for strength and carefully walked around the cross. She was immediately shot to death. The remaining 92 students were strengthened by this girl's courageous example. They also walked around the cross to their death.

They were not ashamed of the gospel.

They were willing to die for their faith.

70 million Christians died for their faith in the 20th century.

◆ More than in all the other centuries combined.

From 2000-2010 things slowed down and only 100,000/year were martyred.

◆ That is one Christian every 5 minutes being killed for the faith.

Since 2010 that number has increase again.

1 Peter 4:16 but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

We are to be willing to suffer for the gospel . . .

b. According to the power of God v. 8

- Paul and others have found God's strength during times of persecution and martyrdom

◆ (Foxes Book of Christian Martyrs)

- Thomas Harrison was an English martyr. While awaiting to be hanged because of his faith he proclaimed from the scaffold:

"If I had ten thousand lives, I could freely and cheerfully lay down them all to witness in this matter. By God I . . . will get through this death, and he will make it easy for me."

We are to be willing to suffer for the gospel . . .

c. In light of what God has done for us v. 9

- God saved and called us

◆ Not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace

Salvation is by grace through faith, apart from works.

◆ From all eternity cf Ephesians 1:3-14

Your salvation was a part of God's eternal plan.

We should be willing to suffer . . .

d. Because Christ has abolished death and brought immortality to light vv. 10-11

"Abolished" means "rendered inoperative."

The fact that Christ has defeated death is seen by His own resurrection.

Physical death still exists, but it is no longer a threat or an enemy for Christians. cf 1 Corinthians 15:54-55; Hebrews 2:14-15

3. Do not be ashamed because God is able to guard what you have entrusted to Him. 1:13

Ashamed - embararassed

He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him- Literally “guard my deposit”

The ESV translates this, “**he is able to guard . . . what has been entrusted to me.**”

i.e. God is able to guard his word that has been entrusted to us

All the other major translations take this as what Paul has entrusted to God.

i.e. His life, salvation, eternity

John 10:28-29 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand.

God is trustworthy

4. Personal Applications

a. **Don't be ashamed of the gospel.**

But what is the gospel?

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Now I make known to you, brethren, **the gospel** which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that **He was buried**, and that **He was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation **to everyone who believes**, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

b. **Don't be ashamed . . . but join me in suffering for the gospel. cf v. 8**

John 15:18-20 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. ²⁰ "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

Matthew 5:10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Acts 5:41 So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for *His* name.

c. **If you are not ashamed of God, He will not be ashamed of you.**

Hebrews 2:11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one *Father*; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Hebrews 11:16 But as it is, they desire a better *country*, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

A young pastor from Zimbabwe: I'm a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have the Holy Spirit's power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made; I'm a disciple of *His*! I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away or be

still. . . . I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus.