

“Be Not Ashamed”
2 Timothy 1:8
(Preached at Trinity, January 3, 2022)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Timothy’s ministry has been characterized by extreme difficulties. Throughout history being a Christian has frequently brought persecution, imprisonment, and even death. Timothy was facing opposition even from some in his own church. He was being tempted to draw back. Paul is telling him to press on, laboring in the work God had placed before him.
 - A. In **Verse 6** he told Timothy, “Kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you.”
 - B. In **Verse 7** Paul told Timothy that the fear and timidity he was feeling was not from God. In fact, it was sinful. God equips us with the necessary graces to give us great courage. He gives us power, and love, and a sound mind or sound judgment – right thinking.
2. **Verse 8** deals with the subject of suffering for the gospel’s sake.
 - A. Many church going people live so much like the world that they can’t understand how a person would be brought to suffer for his faith. Their lives are characterized more by accommodation, compromise, and accommodation than by courage and commitment.
 - B. This is not the NT model. God has not promised us a smooth path through this life. Rather the opposite. The Bible teaches that trials and difficulties are a part of every believer’s life.

Acts 14:22 NAU - "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

John 16:33 NAU - "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

2 Timothy 3:12 NAU - "Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."
3. Suffering is one of the identifying marks of a Christian

1 Peter 4:14 NAU - "If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you."

Matthew 5:10-12 NAU - "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
4. Although the Bible teaches that Christians should expect trials and persecutions, it is the duty of every Christian to press on in confidence.

Paul is telling Timothy, “Since God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of right thinking, don’t be afraid of suffering for the gospel’s sake.”

5. **Verse 8** begins, “therefore”
Since . . . "God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline" – “do not be ashamed”
 6. “Ashamed” can carry two meanings.
 It can refer to feelings of guilt and shame and disgrace due to our sinful behavior.
 “You should be ashamed of yourself.”
 It can refer to a fear of shame, ridicule, or disapproval.
 The second is the meaning here.
 The word Paul uses here usually refers to fear of humiliation or embarrassment. It can also imply a sense of deep disappointment.
 It is used eleven times in the NT. Three of those are here in **Chapter 1** and each time in the context of persecution.
2 Timothy 1:8 NAU - "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,"
2 Timothy 1:12 NAU - "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 1:16 NAU - "The Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains"
- I. First, Paul reminds Timothy of the fellowship he shares with others who are suffering
 Paul says, “join with me in suffering . . . “
- A. We must share with the sufferings of the saints of God
 1. Paul says, “do not be ashamed of me His prisoner.” Don’t be embarrassed to claim Paul.
 - a. We should help and comfort others in tribulation - **See Vs 16-18**
 This is the meaning behind our Lord’s words,
 “I was in prison, and you came unto me.”
 - b. But we must also not be afraid to join them – Timothy knew that to be associated with Paul could result in his own imprisonment
 2. Multitudes have suffered before us and serve as our example
 - a. Remember, all but one of the Apostles were martyred for their faith
 Peter was crucified head downward
 James was beheaded at Jerusalem
 Andrew was crucified on an X– shaped cross which bears his name
 Tradition tells us Philip was hanged, crucified, or stoned in Asia Minor
 Bartholomew was flayed alive and then beheaded in Armenia
 Matthew was slain with a sword in Ethiopia
 Thomas had his body run through with a lance
 James the less was thrown from a tower in Jerusalem, stoned, and clubbed – he recovered and then later sawn to pieces
 Judas (Thaddaus) – shot to death with arrows
 Simon the Zealot - fatally attacked by a mob near the Persian Gulf
 Paul – beheaded outside of Rome
 Only John died of natural causes
 - b. They were guilty of one thing – preaching the Gospel of Christ.
 Are we willing to share in their suffering?

B. We must also share in sufferings of our Lord

1. "Do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord"

a. The word for "testimony" is μαρτύριον – a noun from which we get our word martyr. It means testimony or witness.

b. Paul considered it a high honor to be able to suffer for Christ

See Phil. 3:8-14

c. We must remember the suffering of our Savior if we grow weary in our own struggles

Hebrews 12:2-3 NAU - "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

2. Jesus said that if a person is ashamed of Him, He will be ashamed of the person on the day of judgement. And those who deny Him will be denied.
Mark 8:38 NAU - "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

Matthew 10:33 NAU - "But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven."

We must never be afraid to name the name of Christ – no matter what the consequence.

II. Paul tells Timothy to "join with *me* in suffering for the gospel"

There are things which accompany the gospel of Christ, things in which we all share.

A. To be ashamed of suffering for the Gospel is to be ashamed of the Gospel

Romans 1:16 NAU - "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."

1. Timothy was struggling with the temptation to be ashamed of the afflictions of the Gospel. Some in his own church who were much older than him were calling his authority and his teaching into question.

2. Paul is telling him – "Do not be ashamed." Rather, he was to preach . . .

2 Timothy 4:2 NAU - "preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."

3. And Paul was not telling him, "Cheer up, things will get better." Rather Paul told Timothy that they will get worse!

2 Timothy 4:3 NAU - "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,"

- B. The natural response to the Gospel is rejection
1. The message of the Gospel is offensive
It reveals that there is a God who demands holiness
It places men as guilty before this holy God – we are sinners
It demands that men repent and turn from their sin
It demands that men die to self and live for Christ
 2. Many are guilty in our day of softening the Gospel to make it more palatable
 - a. All around us there are those who are experimenting with substitutes for preaching.
 - b. MacArthur – “Long-windedness has become a greater sin than heresy”
 - c. Many have adopted the attitude, if they don’t want preaching, we will give them what they want.
 3. Just as tragic, we are coming from a generation in which the average Christian does not feel compelled to share his faith. Christianity has become a spectator sport.
 - a. Personal evangelism has not been stressed. People don’t want to feel uncomfortable.
 - b. The Great Commission is for all of us.

III. To be ashamed of suffering for the gospel’s sake is to deny the power of God.
"join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,"

- A. Paul stated this in his epistle to the church at Rome.
Romans 1:16 NAU - "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."
1. For those who are ashamed of the gospel, their faith is only an empty powerless religion – **See 2 Timothy 3:1-5**
2 Timothy 3:4-5 NAU - "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power"
 2. By faith the child of God trusts in God’s mighty power.
Ephesians 6:10-11 NAU - "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."
- B. God is accomplishing His purpose – We serve an all-powerful, Sovereign Lord!
Isaiah 55:11 NAU - "So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it."
1. We can boldly sow His seed. God will bless it according to His purpose
 2. Paul knew that His sufferings were ordained by His Lord
Notice, Paul does not call himself a prisoner of Rome but a prisoner of Christ – “His prisoner”
He called his wounds and scars the marks of Christ
Galatians 6:17 NAU - "From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus."

3. If He calls upon us to suffer we should receive it with honor.
Acts 5:40-41 NAU - "They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and *then* released them. 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."
4. This life will soon be over and we will look back upon it with a whole new perspective.

Conclusion:

1. May we press on. Do not be afraid. Trust in the power of the living God. Your reward will be great.
Galatians 6:9 – "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."
2. You may never be called upon to suffer physical torment for the gospel – but if you live a holy life and speak the name of Christ you will face opposition. The Bible teaches that you must faithfully press on in the Gospel no matter what the circumstance. And never, never, fear the face of men.