

**Subject: *Not Ashamed of the Gospel***

**Scripture: *2 Timothy 1:8-12***

We are living in a day when many people are apparently ashamed of the Gospel. They want to water down the truth and compromise the Bible. They are not willing to endure criticism or persecution for the sake of the Gospel. In some cases people show they are ashamed of the Gospel because they don't think it is sufficient to save the lost. That's why we see churches and ministries use man-made substitutes in evangelism. They have either forgotten or they have forsaken Paul's position, ***Romans 1:16*** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

### **PAUL SPEAKS TO HIS SON TIMOTHY (vs. 8)**

Paul specifically mentions not being ashamed three times in this chapter (in his charge to Timothy, vs. 8; in his own testimony, vs. 12; and in his praise of Onesiphorus, vs. 16).

- Don't be ashamed of the message

The "testimony of the Lord" refers to the preaching and teaching of the Gospel.

- Don't be ashamed of the messenger

Paul was in prison for his Christian faith and for his preaching ministry. Some people were keeping a distance from Paul and some had forsaken him (as we read about in this letter).

- Be willing to suffer for the Gospel

Paul was concerned that Timothy might waver and draw back from the suffering associated with preaching the Gospel. These were days of persecution, just as Jesus had predicted. Being a Christian means that we are blessed, but it also means we suffer. We like the blessings, but not so much the suffering. ***Philippians 1:29*** *For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;*

### **PAUL SPEAKS OF THE SAVIOR (vs. 9-10)**

- He saved us
- He called us

This is a holy calling. God is holy and He set us apart to be holy. We are called "the saints" (holy ones, set apart ones).

This is a gracious calling. ***Ephesians 2:8-9***<sup>8</sup> *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*<sup>9</sup> *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

This is an eternal calling. Our salvation was not an afterthought or an emergency plan. It was God's eternal plan. Even before Adam and Eve sinned, God had the plan of salvation set. Jesus is the lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world.

- He appeared for us

This refers to His incarnation and His earthly life and ministry. God's plan was no longer hidden, but was revealed in the life of Christ.

- He destroyed death for us

His death accomplished what no other death could accomplish. He died in the place of sinners and paid our penalty. To destroy death means to render it harmless, powerless.

- He provided eternal life for us

### **PAUL SPEAKS OF HIMSELF (vs. 11-12)**

God appointed Paul to be a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher. That was a glorious assignment that angels might envy, but it was not an easy assignment. Because he was a faithful preacher, apostle, and teacher of the Gospel, Paul suffered greatly. He wasn't whining. He was just making a point that the Gospel is worth it.

- Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel

He was not disappointed or embarrassed in any way.

- Paul was assured in the Gospel

He put his full trust in Christ. Notice "I know whom I have believed, not what I have believed." Paul had faith in the person of Christ. **2 Timothy 3:15** *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

Paul was convinced that Christ was able to keep his soul for time and eternity. Eternal security is in Christ alone. **Romans 8:1** *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

Someone may read this and say, "I wish that I had that kind of assurance." You can have that same kind of assurance Paul had because you have the same Savior he had. Jesus was able to save Paul and He is able to save you. Can you say what Paul said? "I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." There was a dear old saint who loved this verse and had memorized it, but there came a time that his mind began to slip. He could remember parts of it. Finally, near the end of his life, all he could remember was the word "him." That's all he needed. That's all we need.