

Daily Bible Study

“What You Shamed Of?”

2 Timothy 1:8-12

May 11 – May 17, 2014

MONDAY – We continue our study of **2 Timothy** and take for our text **2 Timothy 1:8-12**. I have entitled this lesson **What You Shamed Of?** words from a lyric by Lecrae and Tedashi in the song “Represent” which summarize well the point The Apostle Paul is making in our text to his son in the faith Timothy. As we have seen last time he is calling Timothy not to shame and fear but instead to faith and suffering. He is not saying go looking for ways to suffer as if it were a light, fun and entertaining thing but rather he is pointing out to him that faithfulness to Jesus and His gospel will bring about some degree and type of suffering in this life (**2 Timothy 3:12**) but he then points Him forward to believe in God’s faithfulness to him in suffering and also to the fact God will reward His people and one day set the record eternally straight. Loyalty to the gospel will bring suffering but it is well worth suffering for. A verse worth noting is **Hebrews 5:8-9** where it states, “...*though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.* ⁹*And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him...*” Here we see in our Lord Jesus to which all of Sacred Scripture ultimately points, the wonderful picture of obedience to the will of the Father, resisting every temptation as difficult as they were and ever increasing in difficulty because He resisted them, and finally suffering even physical death on the cross. Although in Jesus case we know He fulfills obedience where Adam failed and therefore qualifies to become our eternal high priest, the point I want us to see from the verse is that obedience to the Father will bring difficulty at time but The Father will not forget to be with His own in difficult times and He will reward them. Read our text: **2 Timothy 1:8-12**: ⁸*“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, ¹⁰but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. ¹²For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”*

Suggestion for Prayer: God, teach me this week from Sacred Scripture that You are with me

even when times get difficult. Help me not to be ashamed of You or the gospel message.

TUESDAY – **2 Timothy 1:3-4**: ⁸*“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,”* Paul tells Timothy that his service in ministry should not be marked by shame for the Lord Jesus and his gospel but instead, suffering for Him and it. Timothy may be younger, inexperienced, fearful, timid and weak even to the point of shrinking back from his God given tasks as a leader of Jesus church. But Paul wants this man to know that God has gifted and empowered him for his ministry and therefore he does not have to be ashamed or afraid to do it. To start with he is told *do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord*. Every genuine Christian understands the criticism that sometimes comes in this regard when we are faithful to Christ. We as real believers are witnesses of and for Jesus (**John 15:26-27, Acts 1:8**) and we need to be ready at times to as Paul said in **1 Corinthians 4:10**, be *“fools for Christ’s sake”*. If there is a time to be deemed a fool it is here and only here. Timothy is also not to *be ashamed* of Paul, the Lord’s *prisoner*. Here, not being ashamed meant being loyal. Loyalty to Jesus and the gospel will bring trouble and this loyalty here is expressed by Timothy being loyal to a man who was regarded as a criminal as Paul was writing this from prison in Rome. Many Christians drop the ball so to speak here, “loving Jesus”, “walking with Jesus”, being “proud of Jesus” yet being ashamed and embarrassed of His people. These two don’t mix. We as believers are one bread and you don’t unite with Jesus without being united to His people (**1 Corinthians 12:12-14**). It appears from Paul’s words later in this letter that most everyone had deserted him (**1:15, 4:10**). He appeals to Timothy not to do this and in an interesting phrase reminds Timothy of God’s sovereignty as he says not that he is a prisoner of Rome but instead, *“His (Jesus) prisoner”*. He adds, *but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God*. Timothy is to take his share of this suffering by remaining faithful to Jesus and Paul and the gospel. The gospel is *power* (**Romans 1:16**). Any suffering that comes is to be endured in the power of God. In the next verse we will see other aspects of the gospels power but for now it is power to conquer self, circumstances, and go on living faithfully when life seems unlivable, and be a testimony for Jesus as a Christian when being a Christian looks impossible. John the Baptist illustrates this well as we see his suffering for Jesus and Jesus Himself asked the crowds if they went out to see a *“reed shaken by the wind”*? (**Matthew 11:7**)

Suggestion for Prayer: God, help me to not be ashamed of You, Your gospel message or Your people. Give me strength to remain faithful even when it becomes difficult.

WEDNESDAY – **2 Timothy 1:9a**: “, ⁹*who has saved us and called us with a holy calling,”* As we continue to look at the gospel we see it is the gospel of *salvation*. God is the God who saves us (**Titus 3:5**). The gospel is rescue. It rescues us from sin, delivers us from deserved punishment from God, and liberates us from the things which had us enslaved in their grip. The gospel alone can truly and completely deliver a person from the bondage which

otherwise in our own strength is unbreakable. God has saved us but also consecrated us. We are not merely rescued from the consequences of past sin but we are set apart to God and given power to conquer the power of sin in holy living that pleases God. He has *called us with a holy calling*. When God calls a person to himself, he calls him to holiness. **1 Thessalonians 4:7**, “*For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.*” God did not call us because we are holy; he called us to make us holy. We are called and become saints, set apart to God and separated out to Him (**1 Corinthians 1:2**). In summary, our world today glories in power; military power, political power, technological power, economic power, human strength (muscle power) etc. Men think they can achieve anything in and of themselves without help from any other source including God (**Genesis 11** -Tower of Babel). But our power is very limited in comparison to the power of God for ours is confined to this life and in spite of all our power we will die. We can’t permanently change human nature. God’s power on the other hand can change permanently as it affects not only life in this world, but in eternity through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Its purpose and power is not to destroy something or someone but to save. It saves us from sin and damnation and enables us to live a holy life that is beneficial for society and fits us for life in heaven. No human message has the power to do this and change people from within to keep them from pleasing themselves and rather be concerned for others and have a real desire to please God. This wonderful gospel is what we are to not be ashamed of but instead deliver to our very needy world.

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for Your saving grace and the power of the gospel that changes me we I cannot change myself. Help me to see and live in this power a life that is holy and pleasing to you, ever being conformed more into the glorious image of Your Son.

THURSDAY – 2 Timothy 1:9b-11: “...not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,¹⁰ but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,¹¹ to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.” This gospel is also the gospel of grace. It is not something which we achieve by *our works* (**Ephesians 2:8-9**), but something given to us by God in His *grace*. If we had to earn the love of God, our situation would be helpless and hopeless. He does not love us because we deserve His love but He loves us out of the boundless mercy and generosity of His heart. This was *His own purpose* planned *before time began*. Don’t separate God the Father from Jesus and think one was stern and hard while the other generous and loving. *Before time began* God’s purpose was to forgive us in and through the person and work of His Son *Christ Jesus*. In His time He has revealed this purpose to us through *Jesus*. It was fully displayed through his *appearing* (**Titus 2:11-14**). The word Paul uses for *appearing* is **epiphaneia**, which means “to appear to someone or at some place” and as William Barclay notes, this word was used repeatedly by the Jews to speak of the great saving manifestations of God in the terrible days of the Maccabean struggles when the

enemies of Israel were fierce in their attacking of the worship of Yahweh in an attempt to obliterate God. The purpose to eternally save was brought into view when the Savior was born (**Luke 2:11**). Furthermore, Jesus *has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel*... Men fear death and the devil knows this (**Hebrews 2:15**) but it is the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ that tells us His death was the way to life, and that far from separating us from God, by repentance and faith we are made at peace with God and accepted in the beloved. We are now eternally secure. Spiritual death has been defeated (**Revelation 2:11**) and we now possess eternal life and communion with God started here on earth and perfected one day in the new heaven and earth. Only God possesses immortality in Himself but Christ gives it to us so that even our bodies after the resurrection will share in this immortality (**1 Corinthians 15:42, 52–54**). Remember who is making these statements? The man writing so confidently about the destruction of death and the revelation of life is a man facing imminent death himself. He can already see the final summons issued to remove his head and in the very presence of death, he can say *Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel*. **Verse 11** informs us that this gospel is a call to service. Paul was *appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles*. A *preacher*, the word is **kērux**, a herald. All the things Paul mentions in **verse 11** remind us of our duty as Christians. The *kērux* was the herald who brought the announcement from the king, was sent when two armies bringing terms for truce and peace, and the person whom an auctioneer or a merchant employed to advertise and invite people to come and buy. So we are to bring the message of peace with God through Jesus to others. Paul also was an *apostle, apostolos*, literally one who is sent out. He did not speak for himself, but for the one who sent him and he came on his authority. And he came to *teach* a task so very important for the *Gentiles* then and us today.

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You that Jesus abolished death and brought life in the gospel. Help me to worship You for Your grace and take this wonderful message to others.

FRIDAY – 2 Timothy 1:12: “¹² For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.” Because he fulfilled his God given duty he experienced *suffering* but he was *not ashamed*. The reason why was stated in the next very memorable words. Paul has once for all placed his trust in the sovereign God. As Peter Williams comments, “Not all bible commentators agree about what Paul had *committed* to God’s keeping but from the context it seems clear that it included both his own soul in salvation, and also the work of proclaiming that salvation to others. And that is true of us. We entrust our souls to God’s keeping, and in the work of proclaiming Christ to others, whether as preachers or in our personal witness, we entrust that to him as well by asking his blessing upon it.” We will elaborate this Lord’s Day if God wills on this verse.

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me have complete trust in You for now and eternity.