

~2 Timothy~

Lesson 3 – Not ashamed of Christ

Last week we learned how Paul encouraged Timothy by reminding him to stir up the gifts inside him. Ignite the fire

- Timothy is struggling under the massive amount of persecution coming against him as Bishop of Ephesus. From the hostility of Rome, the hostility from unbelieving Jews, and the infiltration of the Gnostics
 - Timothy has let his flame die down and seems to be struggling as the leader of the Ephesian church, so Paul reminds him to stand strong in courage. Stand strong in the gifts that have been given to him.
 - Paul reminds Timothy of his genuine faith without hypocrisy, 2 Tim 1:5
 - Supernatural, spirit given charisma, *χάρισμα*, of leadership, teaching and preaching, confirmed by prophecy and the laying on of hands, 2 Tim 1:6
 - And Paul reminds him of the resources he has as a Christian, “*God has not given us a spirit of timidity or cowardice, but has given us the gifts of power, love, and a sound mind*”, 2 Tim 1:7
 - Power- *dunamis*, *δύναμις*, God’s supernatural ability
 - Divine love, *agape*, *ἀγάπη*, an unconditional, giving kind of love
 - A controlled and disciplined mind, *sophronismos*, *σωφρονισμός*, able to make wise decision rooted in love
 - Paul said verses 5,6, and 7 to say verse 8

2 Timothy 1:8- *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,*

Today we will be studying verses 8-12

- Verse 8 which we just read, is the premise for the whole epistle, “do not be ashamed to proclaim the gospel and suffer for it”
- Verses 9-10 Paul reminds Timothy of the powerful God we serve. These could be the single most impactful verses in the NT that explain the gospel message
 - In just two verses, Paul fully describes the redemption plan of God and our eternity with Him
- Verses 11-12 Paul uses his personal testimony to emphasize the duty of the Christian to proclaim the Gospel, even unto sufferings and death, by the power, *dunamis*, *δύναμις*, of God
 - So there is a lot to talk about in these next 5 verses
 - Lets start by reading these as a whole

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,

⁹ who 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, 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. 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.

Two times in these 5 verses Paul mentions “not being ashamed of Christ and the gospel”.

- He is encouraging his son Timothy to ignite the flame, stand in courage, endure persecution, and preach the Word
 - *Stir up the gift of God which is in you*, 1:6

- *Do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, 1:8*
- *Share with me in the sufferings of the Gospel, 1:8*
- *Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, 1:13*
- *Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2:1*
- *You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, 2:3*
- *Be diligent to present yourself approved of God, 2:15*
- *All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution, 3:12*
- *I charge you therefore...preach the Word, 4:1-2*
- *Be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry, 4:5*

2 Timothy 1:8 †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,

† *Therefore ...*

- Because you have genuine faith without hypocrisy, and if you ignite the flame of the charisma, χάρισμα, inside you, and if you remember that God has not given us the spirit of cowardice, but power, love, and a sound mind...therefore *then...*

† *... do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord...*

- Ashamed- , epaischunthes, ἐπαισχυνθῆς, passive voice in the subjunctive mood
 - We yield our heart to God and this allows God to give us the courage and boldness, the dunamis, δύναμις, to not be ashamed to proclaim His Truth
 - It is our confidence in God's promise of eternal life that gives us the boldness to proclaim the Gospel

Acts 9:19–20-¹⁹ ... Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰ Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

2 Corinthians 3:12- Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech—

- We are ambassadors of Christ with the purpose to proclaim Truth to a fallen world.
- To proclaim, “the testimony of our Lord”
 - Testimony is the word, marturion, μαρτύριον, we get the word martyr from this.
 - This word has developed into being defined as, “dying for something you believe in”, because being a witness for Jesus usually meant you were killed for doing so.
 - This is what Paul is encouraging Timothy and any believer to do; stand strong and proclaim the testimony of Jesus Christ even unto sufferings and death.

† *... nor of me His prisoner...*

- Do not be ashamed of the gospel nor my chains. This idea of not abandoning our brothers who are in chains for Christ was very important to Paul

2 Timothy 1:15- This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me...

2 Timothy 4:10- for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world...

2 Timothy 4:16- At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.

Hebrews 10:32–34-³² But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: ³³ partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; ³⁴ for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of

your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.

Hebrews 13:3- *Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.*

- Notice, in verse 8 Paul says, “His” prisoner. He doesn’t consider himself a prisoner of Rome, but rather a prisoner of Him, that is Christ
 - Paul is a slave, doulos, δούλος, of Christ to do His will even unto chains and death, Phil 1:1

† *... share with me in the sufferings for the gospel...*

- Share with me in the sufferings- sugkakopatheo, συγκακοπαθέω, this is an imperative command
 - It is a combination of 3 Greek words in one- share with- sun, συν, + evil affliction- kakos + to suffer- pascho, πασχω,
 - This word is only used once in the Bible here, but we see kakopatheo, κακοπαθέω, to suffer evil affliction used three other times in this epistle and pascho, πασχω, to suffer, used once

2 Timothy 2:3- *You therefore must endure hardship kakopatheo, κακοπαθέω, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

2 Timothy 2:9- *for which I suffer trouble kakopatheo, κακοπαθέω, as an evildoer, even to the point of chains;*

2 Timothy 4:5- *But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions kakopatheo, κακοπαθέω,, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

2 Timothy 1:12- *For this reason I also suffer pascho, πασχω, these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed...*

- This is the thread of the entire letter to Timothy. Be bold to suffer for the gospel and proclaim the Truth of His Word.

Romans 8:16–18-¹⁶ *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,* ¹⁷ *and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, (praise God, we are heirs with Christ! ...but wait, there’s more)*

...if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. ¹⁸ *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

1 Peter 1:6- *In this (resurrection life in Jesus) you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,*

- For 200 years Christian life in America has been safe. A place we can live without persecution.
 - Being a Christian has been viewed as good, normal, patriotic and it has even been both economically and socially beneficial to be called a Christian
 - But our prosperous nation has resulted in an unbiblical mindset, namely of an at-homeness in the world.
 - We have gotten too comfortable in the world, and this has not been good for us.
- Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, these “luxuries” we have (or did have) in America, on the one hand, have, on the surface, seemingly increased Christianity, but on the other hand, I think it has resulted in the making of soft, non-fruit bearing Christians that when real persecution would arise, most would abandon the faith.
 - The gospel message being preached today, for the most part, is so watered down with feel good, inspirational talk that it gives people the wrong gospel message.

- There are many who call themselves Christians, but they are not strengthened in the Word; they were never taught 2nd Timothy from the pulpit, and when affliction and persecution arises for the Word's sake, they have no root, and immediately they stumble, Mk 4:17
 - This could be the great falling away, apostasia, ἀποστασία, that we see in 2 Thess 2:3.
- Our safe America has ended. Persecution has already begun, and we need to be changing our mindset concerning suffering for the gospel.
- We need to program our thinking to be like the early church, rejoicing that we might be found worthy to suffer shame for the Name, Acts 5:41
 - We need to expect suffering and be ready for it.
 - We must look at ourselves as sojourners in this world, ambassadors for Christ with one mission- to **Preach the Word!**
- The Truth is, God doesn't need freedom of religion to build His Church. His Kingdom is not of this world and nothing of this world can shake His Kingdom.
 - Paul tells us in Philippians that his suffering actually emboldened other believers and grew the church, Philippians 1:12–14-¹² *But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,* ¹³ *so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;* ¹⁴ *and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear...*
 - This is why we suffer for Christ- that it would further the gospel, *that some may know the Truth and come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him,* 2 Tim 2:25-26
 - 2 Timothy 2:10- *Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*

† *...suffer... according to the power of God ...*

- God is not telling us to proclaim the gospel and suffer alone.
 - He tells us to do this “according to His power”. This is why we can do this with joy
 - It is by the effectual supernatural ability given to us by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that enables us to suffer for the gospel
 - And not only suffer, but we can actually suffer with joy. Rejoicing in His name even unto death
- I want to read to you the story of Polycarp. He lived from 65 – 155AD. He is considered one of the church fathers and was a student of the Apostle John and the Bishop of Smyrna
 - This is the story of his martyrdom for Christ as recorded by Eusebius
- These accounts of Christian martyrs are so moving, so faith building, and I think it goes right along with what the Apostle Paul is telling Timothy

Eusebius- Ecclesiastical History, Book XV

[17] Now when Polycarp entered into the arena there came a voice from heaven: ‘Be strong, Polycarp, and play the man.’ And no one saw the speaker, but many of our friends who were there heard the voice. [18] And when he was brought forward, there was a great uproar of those who heard that Polycarp had been arrested.

Next when he approached, the proconsul asked him if he were Polycarp, and when he admitted it, he tried to persuade him to deny, saying: ... ‘Swear by the genius of Caesar, repent, ...take the oath and I will let you go, and revile Christ,’

Polycarp said: **‘For eighty and six years have I been his servant, and he has done me no wrong, and how can I blaspheme my King who saved me?’**

But when the proconsul persisted again, and said: ‘Swear by the genius of Caesar,’^[21] Polycarp answered: ‘If you vainly suppose that I will swear by the genius of Caesar, as you say, and pretend that you are ignorant who I am, listen plainly: **I am a Christian.** And if you wish to learn the doctrine of Christianity fix a day and listen.’

... And the proconsul said: ‘I have wild beasts, I will deliver you to them, unless you change your mind.’^[23] And Polycarp said: ‘Call for them, for change of mind from better to worse is a change we may not make; but it is good to change from evil to righteousness.’^[24] And the proconsul said again to him: ‘I will cause you to be consumed by fire, if you despise the beasts, unless you repent.’

But Polycarp said: ‘You threaten with the fire that burns for a time, and is quickly quenched, for you do not know the fire which awaits the wicked in the judgement to come and in everlasting punishment.’^[25] But why are you waiting? Come, do what you will.’ **And with these and many other words he was filled with courage and joy, and his face was full of grace,**

...and all the multitude of heathen and Jews living in Smyrna cried out with uncontrollable wrath and a loud shout: ... Then they found it good to cry out with one mind that he should burn Polycarp alive. ...Now when the fire was ready he put off all his clothes,^[30] and loosened his girdle.

^[31] Immediately, therefore, he was fastened to the instruments which had been prepared for the fire, and a great flame blazed up ...and surrounded the body of the martyr as with a wall, and **he was within it not as burning flesh, but as gold and silver being refined in a furnace.** And we perceived such a fragrant smell as the scent of incense or other costly spices.

At length the lawless men,^[38] seeing that his body could not be consumed by the fire, commanded an executioner to go up and stab him with a dagger, ...and all the crowd marveled that there was such a difference between the unbelievers and the elect. And of the elect was he indeed one, the wonderful martyr, Polycarp.

This is the boldness, and the joy Paul is telling us we can have in proclaiming Truth and suffering for the Gospel

2 Timothy 1:8-10 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,
⁹ †who 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, †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,

Verses 9-10 is the power unto salvation that gives us the strength to proclaim the gospel in sufferings

- It is for this reason why we suffer for His sake, because He suffered for us, abolished death and gave us eternal life with Him
- These two verses, 9-10, could quite possibly be one of the single greatest statements in all of Scripture pertaining to the doctrine of salvation.

† *who has saved us and called us ~~with~~ (to) a holy calling* ^{dativae case} ...

- It is God who has saved us through His Son and has called us, kaleo, καλέω, to a holy calling, klesei

hagia, κλήσει ἁγία, one that is set apart for ministry

- This is a calling to be a fellow-worker with Him
 - Once we are called, we must answer the call and accept Him and follow Him

Matthew 22:14- “*For many are called, but few are chosen.*” (Only those who answer the call are chosen)

† *...not according to our works ...*

- This is so important... Ephesians 2:8–9-⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

† *... but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began*

- God’s purpose is to reconcile man to Himself through Jesus. Because of this He placed His grace, mercy, peace, righteousness, and everything pertaining to our redemption in Christ Jesus, ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ
 - And He did this before time began, πρὸ χρόνων αἰωνίων, before the eternity of time

† ¹⁰ *but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ ...*

- His grace and the whole redemption plan of the Father has been manifested, phanerao, φανερώω^{φαινω}, to us by the manifestation, epiphaneia, ἐπιφάνεια^{ἐπι- φαινω}, of our Savior Jesus Christ

1 Peter 1:20- *He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest, phanerao, φανερώω, in these last times for you*

1 John 1:2- *the life was manifested, phanerao, φανερώω, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested, phanerao, φανερώω, to us—*

† *who has abolished death* Heb 2:14- He destroyed him who had the power of death *and brought life and immortality to light* photizo, φωτίζω, *through the gospel*, euangelion, εὐαγγέλιον ...

- The only way sinners will know the Truth of everlasting life and immortality is through the gospel
 - The proclamation of the gospel is what shines the light of eternal life in Jesus to the world.

Ephesians 3:8–9-⁸ *To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach (euangelizo, εὐαγγελίζω, proclaim the gospel) among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make all see (photizo, φωτίζω, shine the light so all will see) what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;*

Matthew 5:16- *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

2 Timothy 1:11-12, ¹¹ to which (that is the gospel) I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. 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.

- Paul is bringing everything back to proclamation of the gospel
- Verses 11-12, key off verse 8, to suffer for the gospel according to the power of God and verses 9-10 show us who God is and the power He has
 - Paul isn’t telling Timothy to do anything he hasn’t already done
 - Paul was appointed to the ministry, as a preacher, an apostle and a teacher, v.11, and for this reason he says, † “*I also suffer for the gospel*”, v.12
 - Nevertheless, † “*I am not ashamed of the gospel*”, v.12
 - Why is he not ashamed to suffer for Christ?

† ...for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded ...

- Paul knows His God and just like Abraham, “*he is fully persuaded that what He has promised He is also able to perform*”, Rom 4:21

† ...that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

- Paul committed His life to God. He surrendered everything into His hands for the gospel
 - Paul is confident that God is able to keep and guard his eternal life even unto physical death
 - We can face persecution with joy and boldness because we are held in God’s power, in His dunamis, δύναμις, because He is the One who keep us

Acts 20:22–24-²² *And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there,* ²³ *except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.* ²⁴ *But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*

1 Peter 4:19- *Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.*

Romans 14:8- *For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.*

† ... that Day.

- This is the Day that we stand before God at the Bema Seat Judgement in heaven after the rapture

2 Timothy 4:8- *Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

1 Corinthians 3:12–14-¹² *Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,* ¹³ *each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.* ¹⁴ *If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.*

2 Corinthians 5:10- *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

- In summary, to wrap up these 5 verses, Paul is reminding Timothy, and us, saying,

“Remember our God. He is the God who saved us. The God who called us with a holy calling. The God who did so according to His own purpose and His own grace. The God who granted us salvation in Christ Jesus from before the eternity of time. The God who manifested His grace and salvation by the manifestation of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”

“This is our God. He is the God who has saved us, the God who keeps us and the One who empowers us to proclaim the Truth.”

“Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, but be bold to proclaim the Gospel, share in my sufferings even unto death, according to the power of God. Because our God is powerful enough to save you, and He is powerful enough to keep you until that glorious Day when we stand before Him in Triumph”