

## **Not Ashamed of Jesus**

2 Timothy 1:8-18

### **Introduction**

What is the difference between shame and guilt?

Shame=

Guilt=

What are some ways that people try to make us feel shame today as Christians?

Paul understood the struggle with shame because he says in Romans 1:16 that he is “not ashamed of the gospel.” There would be no need to mention this if it were not a common problem. If Timothy is going to pass the torch to the next generation, he will need to deal with this issue.

### **I. Not ashamed of the gospel**

Paul counters Timothy’s temptation to fear & shame (and ours) by first pointing out how amazing and majestic the gospel is.

#### **A. The gospel saves us (1:9)**

What is included in this salvation?

1.       (Forgiveness)       of all our sin (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14)
2.       (Justified)       declared righteous (Romans 3:24; 5:1; Titus 3:7)
3. Death       (defeated)       (1:10) (Hebrews 2:14-15)  
Death summarizes our human condition as a result of sin.
4. Jesus gives us       (life)       (1:10)

#### **B. The gospel is all about God’s grace (1:9)**

“If we would trace the river of salvation to its source, we must look right back beyond time to a past eternity.” (*Guard the Gospel*, John Stott, p. 35)

Before you were born or could do any good works, in fact, before time in eternity past, God in His grace determined you would be His child. This is a difficult thing to grasp with our limited minds, but it is clearly a biblical teaching which emphasizes that salvation is due to God’s grace alone with no contribution from us. So we have nothing to boast about in our salvation; it is all from God and for His glory. This should produce in us a deep humility and gratitude as well as bring us peace and assurance, for our eternal safety depends ultimately on God’s act of grace and not on ourselves (Romans 8:30).  
Example of this is Esau & Jacob (Romans 9:11-16)

#### **C. This gospel is both an eternal plan and a historical event (1:10)**

### **II. Not ashamed of those who stand for the gospel**

Why might Timothy be tempted to be ashamed of Paul?

Paul reminds Timothy why he is in prison—1:11-12

What does Paul invite Timothy to do in 1:8?

Suffering and ridicule as a Christian is not a cause for shame

1 Peter 4:12-16 (ESV)

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.”

The battle against shame is a battle against unbelief. As Paul says in 1:12, he is not ashamed because he knows in whom he has believed and is assured that his faith is not misplaced.

### **Conclusion/Application**

1. Sometimes unbelievers try to load Christians down with shame we don’t deserve. Remember, they called Jesus a drunkard and glutton (Matthew 11:19; Luke 7:34). We are in good company.
2. Remember that ultimately all attempts to put us to shame will fail. No one who builds their life on the promises of God will be put to shame! So live your life with joyful courage, not embarrassed shame.

Isaiah 49:23 (ESV)

“Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. With their faces to the ground they shall bow down to you, and lick the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD; those who wait for me shall not be put to shame.”

Romans 9:33 (ESV)

“as it is written, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

Romans 10:11 (ESV)

“For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”