

## **Spiritually Loyalty**

2 Timothy 1:8-18

In 2 Timothy, Paul is urging Timothy to persevere in passing on the gospel. In these verses Paul is telling him not to be “ashamed” of the gospel or those who stand for the gospel. After all, if he is ashamed he will not be effective.

### **I. Shameless suffering**

In vs. 8 what is Timothy not to be ashamed of?

In vs. 12 why is Paul not ashamed?

How are vss. 15-18 illustrating shame, both negatively and positively?

In vs. 8 Paul invites Timothy to share what experience with him? (see 2:8-9)

Does anyone like this experience?

What encouragement does Paul give Timothy that he can handle this?

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.

### **II. Guard the truth**

How was Timothy supposed to be certain he was maintaining the truth? (vs. 13)

What does Paul mean by “the good deposit” in vs. 14?

What was Timothy supposed to do with this “good deposit”?

How would he be enabled to do this?

## Conclusion/Application

1. 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 even though they may suffer for it! 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.”

2. The gospel of Jesus Christ is something very precious so we must guard against compromising it or corrupting it so the next generation will get it accurately. We must protect it because it is such a valuable treasure and celebrate it every day because it is the power of God that has saved us.
3. While we are called on to defend the gospel from corruption, we recognize that it is ultimately God Himself who maintains it for the sake of His people.