

2 Timothy 1:8- 18

No shame

2TI 1:8 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

2TI 1:13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you--guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

2TI 1:15 You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

2TI 1:16 May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. ¹⁷ On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. ¹⁸ May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

1. I admit it, and I am ashamed – I love English football. I just can't help myself, Monday nights, I ignore the washing up and sit in front of the tele yelling at the referee, cheering the goals. I'm told it is just not Australian, I should watch Rugby league or at least rugby Union, but I can't help it. I look in the newspaper for the results on Monday morning, I take the paper back to the office, and I try to concentrate on work but it just gets the better of me, I have to see if Manchester United won or more importantly if Arsenal and Chelsea lost. See I have a real problem, I want teams to lose, I have a problem and I am ashamed.

Well not really, but in all of our lives there are things we really just don't want to talk about or let people know. Let's face it – shame is not good.

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Paul is saying to Timothy- don't be ashamed of telling people about Jesus. Our assumption is that this advice was intended for Timothy, the original reader, as much as for us. Why did Tim need to be told that?

If we look back into last week's passage we get a glimpse.
Verse 7.

7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Paul is talking about being timid, then in the next verse he is talking about not being ashamed. I think we are starting to see Timothy was probably not the most confident guy around.

We assume these bible guys to be super heroes, but Paul is building up this guys confidence by building up his image in God.

From reading the letters to Timothy we can assume Timothy is young, timid, frail and weak. Read through for your own benefit and read the book trying to get out of a picture of Timothy. Here is a young bloke, without much confidence Or is he just a normal bloke and Paul keeps putting him in tough situations like sending him to deliver letters to Corinth and not pleasant letters either. He became Paul's trouble shooter, was that later on – no – he was Paul's troubleshooter when Paul was in prison about to die. When this letter was written – He was doing the job. It appears he shrunk back from God's ministry. Paul is saying – God has gifted him – don't be afraid or ashamed of what God has called him to.

I don't think Tim was ashamed of the gospel, I think he was a bit nervous about being the one to deliver it.

In our denomination, we had a man who had a speech impediment, would rather read than lead, had a nervous disposition, was eccentric yet he has left a stamp on probably all the Baptist ministers of the 20th century. G.H. Morling. – Our college is named after him, He became a leader despite not wanting to why- God called – He obeyed.

Let me tell you a story. Prof Morling was my grandfathers lecturer and friend, he trained my grandfather in preaching and studying and in greek. IN some ways he mentored my grand ad. So I have a connection there. I also went to Morling College as Lauren does now, so there is another connection. But when I was pastor at Armidale on one of the first days I was there I got a phone call from this guy, Colin Goodman and asked if I could visit. So a couple of days later, Marianne and I went to visit this old couple in the Aged care facility called Autumn Lodge. As we walked in the old gentleman said "You're here, we have been praying for you to come." My response was "Don't stop now." And that was the start of an amazing relations. What's this got to do with Morling? He was Morlings son in law. His first wife, Morlings daughter had passed away a number of years before but he told me fondly stories of the family even the stories of when Prof Morling got older and lived with them and began his decline. One thing that sturck me was how Prof Morling had mentored, discipled his Son in law in prayer. Colin and his wife Mona, prayed for us not only every day we were at Armidale but ever day for the rest of their lives that they could. So this stuttering professor of theology not only had an effect on many Baptist pastors around NSW but also on His family and through them to me.

The question is asked in our Baptist denomination in NSW who will be the 21st centuries Morling?

Where does this take us?

It's about calling – and doing the job we are called to. As preachers, yes, but also as people in community, farmers, teachers, students and retirees. Being who God has called you to be in that setting and not being ashamed.

Paul states he is not ashamed why? He knows what he believes. He knows in who he believes. Absolute confidence. What is this confidence in look at verse 9b and 10

This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

The message about Jesus – what the bible calls the gospel which means good news. Jesus came and given us the chance of permanent life with Him. That is what Paul is confident about.

Jesus did what He had to change Paul's life.

Confidence is a funny thing. It made Paul swap sides of the religious spectrum, it made smelly fishermen into men who changed history. No it isn't confidence – it is confidence in a life changing saviour – Jesus.

This confidence is NOT about going out and bible bashing every person we come in contact with. It is through a confidence that the Lord will lead us to the people who He wants us to relate to.

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2. Guard the gospel.

I like these verses. Over the years this church has had great teaching. You are told to guard it. This sound teaching is not just education but the message of Jesus that changes lives. That has changed your life. What is this pattern? – Scripture.

It is not other nice christian books, Calvins institutes of religions, Spurgeons sermons are not the same.

Scripture is the authority!!!!!!

I think for us guard it means as much that we need to know what we guard.

A guy was delivering a parcel for a friend once and stopped to get a hamburger. When he came back from the hamburger shop the parcel was gone off the front seat. He rang his mate who told him that in the parcel was the engagement ring that he was giving to his soon to be fiancée, and that it had been his grandmothers and was worth a fortune. The delivery guy said “I would have locked the car if I knew it was that important”. The bible is more precious when we know what is in it. We will guard it more, if we understand it's preciousness.

Notice though we guard it WITH – the help of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit not only guards but helps interpret actually helped write down what is here. We are not alone in our efforts. We are not alone when we need to exercise our unashamedness, we are not alone when we need to exercise our gifts.

Timothy is timid and shy so he needs to hear that the Holy Spirit helps!!!!!! We need to understand his concept.

Otherwise we may become like these two guys, Phygelus and Hermogenes. Deserted Paul. It does not say they deserted God but the inference is I think that they deserted the good influence of God's appointed apostle so they at least are in a state of sin. What makes us so arrogant to think that can't happen to us? Now there is a big theological issue here, we are not talking about it now, but guard what you know to be right, work out your salvation, affirm it, learn it, be sure of it.

Paul uses an interesting tactic here. He just mentioned that some have deserted that could be pretty down heartening for Tim, so he points to a person of amazing blessing.

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This guy was interested in Paul's well being. When others just dumped him – Onesiphorus went all the way. Paul is putting him up as an example. A man with no shame of the gospel or its workers. Paul is saying Tim – here is a role model. Paul is saying – you lot in Bathurst – here is a role model. Workers for God, not ashamed. It does not say Onesiphorus preached, or anything – he helped Paul. He searched to help Paul – he went out of his way to help Paul. What an example for us. Go out of our way to help, search for a way to help. As Tim had to see – so do we.