

Theme: Christians are not to be ashamed of the Gospel but must be willing to suffer for clearly proclaiming it and living a life of holiness in the midst of an unbelieving and unholy culture.

## I. Intro - Stories of Suffering and Persecution

- A. ICC Board retreat last week (thank Tony for teaching)
- B. Stories of Christians suffering and persecuted for Jesus
- C. It is both humbling and challenging - is it just for them?

## II. The Precious Deposit of the Gospel

- A. Notice the centrality of the Gospel in this passage

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... <sup>10</sup> 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**. <sup>11</sup> And of this **gospel** I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. 2 Timothy 1:8, 10–11

- 1. Gospel appears in vv8, 10; actually a **pronoun** in v10, but 'Gospel' is its referent.
- 2. It is pointed to a number of ways in the passage
  - a. 'Testify/testimony about our Lord' - the Gospel  
So do not be ashamed to **testify about our Lord**... 2 Timothy 1:8
  - b. An encapsulation of the Gospel is given in vv9-10  
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, <sup>10</sup>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. 2 Tim 1:9–10

- 1. Not because of anything we have done (9)
- 2. Based on God's purpose and grace (9)
- 3. Given to us in Christ Jesus before time (9)
- 4. Revealed in the coming of Christ our Savior (10)
- 5. Destroys death and reveals eternal life (v10)

- c. Timothy must guard sound teaching/good deposit  
What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of **sound teaching**, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> **Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you** — guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. 2 Timothy 1:13–14

- 1. Sound teaching - big idea in Pastoral epistles (8x)
- 2. This sound teaching is the Gospel, which has been given to timothy as a precious deposit he must guard

- B. The Gospel is the most precious gift given to us

- 1. The Gospel is the truth of God's grace, of Christ's life and death for us, of the defeat of death and the offer of eternal life! (remember verses 9-10)
- 2. This is why Timothy must guard it  
Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you — guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. 2 Timothy 1:14
  - a. The Gospel has been to Timothy as a good deposit that must be guarded and handed on to future generations.
  - b. It would be an unmitigated disaster for this Gospel to be distorted or lost.
  - c. The Holy Spirit lives in us and will help us!

- C. The requirements to guard the deposit of the Gospel

- 1. To guard the Gospel we must not be ashamed
- 2. To guard the Gospel we must be willing to suffer

### III. Unashamed of the Gospel

#### A. Paul is concerned that Timothy is not ashamed

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... <sup>12</sup> 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... <sup>16</sup> May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was **not ashamed** of my chains. 2 Timothy 1:8, 12, 16

1. This is the first of two key commands to Timothy which are required if Timothy is to guard the deposit
2. The same word appears 3x in this passage!
3. The danger of being ashamed is central to Paul's concerns as he faces death

#### B. Timothy must not be **ashamed** of the **Gospel**

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, 2 Timothy 1:8

1. Do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord (literal; see ESV)
2. It is specifically referred to as the Gospel later
3. Timothy must not be ashamed of the Gospel
4. This is an important theme in Paul's writings  
**I am not ashamed of the gospel...** Romans 1:16
5. But why would we be ashamed of the glorious Gospel described in vv9-10?

- a. We may be tempted to be ashamed because the Gospel is foolishness to the lost world

For **the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing**, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18

1. People in Paul's day laughed and scoffed at the Gospel - and they still do today!
2. This can tempt us to be ashamed - but we must remember the Gospel is actually the power of God to save! (v 18; also Romans 1:16)

- b. We may be tempted to be ashamed of our brothers and sisters in Christ, especially as they suffer

So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, **or ashamed of me his prisoner**. 2 Timothy 1:8

1. Many deserted Paul when he was arrested - they kept a distance from him (more on this in a minute)
2. It is quite popular today to say I love Jesus but to heap scorn on fellow believers and be ashamed of them
3. Believers do sometimes act foolishly and suffer for it - but we must never be ashamed of Jesus, His Gospel, or His people
4. It is often a short step from being ashamed of fellow believers to becoming disillusioned with Christ and His Gospel.
5. We must remember the ultimate foolishness we will ever see, and the most shameful thing we will ever observe is the rejection of our glorious Lord Jesus Christ and His saving Gospel.

- C. Christians must never be ashamed of the Gospel, even though the culture around us calls it weak, foolish, or bigoted, for it is the wisdom and power of God to save!

## IV. Willing To Suffer for the Gospel

- A. Paul wants Timothy to know suffering is part of faithful Christian life and ministry

But join with me in **suffering** for the gospel, by the power of God, 2 Timothy 1:8

**Endure hardship** with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 2:3

But you, keep your head in all situations, **endure hardship**, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. 2 Timothy 4:5

1. Paul calls Timothy to suffer along with Him
2. The same word (συγκακοπάθησον) is used in 2 Timothy 2:3
3. The same root (κακοπάθησον) is used in 2 Tim 4:5
4. Paul is letting Timothy know that suffering is not unique to Paul and his ministry - but will be part of Timothy's life and ministry as well.
5. In fact, the normal Christian life involves suffering and persecution  
You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, <sup>11</sup> persecutions, sufferings — what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. <sup>12</sup> **In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...**  
2 Timothy 3:10–12

- a. vv10-11 remind Timothy of suffering and persecution in Paul's life
- b. v12 - everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted

6. Paul's message to his spiritual son Timothy is that suffering and persecution are part of a normal Christian life for all faithful followers of Jesus.

- B. The causes of suffering persecution in the Christian life

1. Suffering comes from living a holy life

But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who has saved us and **called us to a holy life**... 2 Timothy 1:8–9

In fact, everyone who wants to **live a godly life** in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 2 Timothy 3:12

- a. v9 - literally 'called us with a holy calling' - but the idea is the calling is to holiness in conduct
  - b. v12 - it is those who live a godly life who will be persecuted
  - c. The world does not care if I say I believe in Jesus but it will strike out against anyone who refuses to embrace the cultural decay and debauchery.
  - d. The Gospel is viewed as foolishness and the call to holiness of the faith is viewed as bigotry and hatred by the unbelieving world around us.
  - e. Any attempt to embrace the biblical teaching on godliness and to live a life in line with true holiness will be ridiculed and ostracized by the rebellious unbelieving world.
2. Suffering comes from proclaiming the Gospel  
And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. <sup>12</sup> 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. 2 Timothy 1:11–12

- a. Paul was appointed to teach the Gospel to the world, proclaiming our sin, Christ's death and resurrection, calling everyone to faith, and warning of coming judgment for all who do not embrace Christ by faith.
- b. The activity of proclaiming the Gospel is why Paul suffered and was arrested and ultimately put to death.
- c. The same thing is true for us - it is not merely believing the Gospel that brings suffering. It is when we share with others that a negative reaction is likely to come.
- d. This is specifically why Paul is calling Timothy to join with him in not only believing the Gospel but also proclaiming it and living in accordance with what it teaches - knowing that this will bring suffering.

### C. Examples of shame and suffering

You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

<sup>16</sup>May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. <sup>17</sup>On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. 2 Timothy 1:15–17

1. Many deserted Paul - they were ashamed to stand with him and unwilling to suffer for the cause of the Gospel.
2. But Onesiphorus was not ashamed and refreshed Paul in his suffering. He even traveled and sought Paul out - unashamed and willing to suffer! (v17)

## V. Applying the Word

- A. Do I see the call to be unashamed to suffer for the Gospel?

1. Paul calls Timothy - and us - to know this call
2. This is not about a sadomasochist approach to life - it is the reality of embracing and proclaiming the Gospel in the midst of an unbelieving culture.
3. The Gospel is worthy of our unashamed proclamation and any suffering that comes!
4. I suspect we will see more and more mocking of the Gospel and mounting pressure on those who proclaim the Gospel and live a holy life.
5. We must resolve now to boldly and clearly embrace, proclaim, and live in light of God's Word - and accept the consequences.

### B. The Power of God's Spirit

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but **a Spirit of power**, of love and of self-discipline. <sup>8</sup> 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...** <sup>14</sup> Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you — guard it with **the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.** 2 Timothy 1:7–8, 14

1. This call is not fulfilled by our courage or power but by the power and boldness that comes from the Spirit!
2. The Spirit dwells in every believer to empower them to receive, guard, proclaim, and live in obedience to the Gospel and the Word of God.
3. This is why we must stir up the Gift of God in us - stirring up the Spirit's Presence and Power so that we might not shrink in the day of struggle.
4. Listen to last week's After Hours for more on this

### C. The Table

1. We come to the Table weekly because we need strength!
2. God had promised to meet us here by the Spirit to feed us, give us strength, and stir up His Spirit of Power within us!
3. Come, confessing your need and receiving His grace and strength!

### Unashamed To Suffer for the Gospel

2 Timothy 1:8-18  
February 27, 2022  
Communion  
Psalm 29:11

Teaching keywords: Evangelism and missions; suffering; holiness; gospel; Christian life

May the Lord gives strength to you, for you are His people; may the Lord bless You with peace. Psalm 29:11

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, <sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you — guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. <sup>15</sup> You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. <sup>16</sup> May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. <sup>17</sup> On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. <sup>18</sup> 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. 2 Timothy 1:8–18