DO NOT BE ASHAMED

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

Context

2 Timothy 1:7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Key Verse

2 Timothy 1:8 So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.

“So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner.” Paul is concerned that his being in jail will cause Timothy to back off in his proclamation of the Gospel. Paul saw his being in prison as part of his service to Christ.

Philippians 1:12-14 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

“Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.” 2 Timothy 3:12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

What God Has Done for Us

2 Timothy 1:9a He 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.

“He has saved us.” Acts 10:43 “All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Romans 4:7&8 “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”

Romans 6:6&7 (using marginal reading) For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. (“rendered powerless” is *“katargeo”* reduced to inactivity.)

I Peter 1:15&16 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

Why God Has Done What He Has Done

“Not because of anything we have done.” Romans 4:5 However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

Titus 3:4&5a But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

“Because of his own purpose and grace.” Ephesians 1:4-6 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will, to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Grace Given and Revealed

2 Timothy 1:9b&10 This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, 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 word translated “destroyed” here is one that should be translated “rendered powerless,” here, in Romans 6:6 and Hebrews 2:14)

We were chosen by grace “before the creation of the world,” but what God had in mind was not revealed until Jesus came and paid the penalty for our sins on the cross.

“Who has destroyed death.” Hebrews 2:14&15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who held the power of death – that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

James 4:15 Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”

Psalm 139:16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Although resurrection and immortality are implied in the Old Testament, they were not clearly revealed until Jesus came.

“Has brought life and immortality.” John 10:27-29 “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”

“Through the gospel.” John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Why Paul Was Suffering

2 Timothy 1:11 And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.

A herald is simply one who tells. Mark 5:19&20 Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

The Greek word for apostle is *“apostolos,”* which Strong’s Concordance describes as “a messenger, one sent on a mission, an apostle.”

Paul was also a teacher. 2 Timothy 2:2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

2 Timothy 1:12 That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard that which I have entrusted to him until that day.

Acts 5:32b&33 They called the apostle in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

“I know whom I have believed.” Philippians 3:8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.

I Peter 1:3-5 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Things to Remember

We should never be ashamed of either the Gospel or those who suffer for proclaiming it.

We should be prepared to suffer for proclaiming the Gospel.

God has saved us from the penalty and power of sin, and it was all by grace.

God has followed His plan to bring us to Christ, orchestrating events in a way planned even before He created the heavens and the earth.

By His death, Jesus rendered death powerless – replacing the fear of eternal separation from God and those we love with the assurance of eternity with God and our loved ones who know Him in heaven.

Because we know Christ, we know that we can trust Him with everything we have entrusted to Him.