

## II Timothy, Sermon #3

### II Timothy 1

Unique relationship – spiritual relationship where Paul the Apostle was instrumental in leading Timothy to Christ – then helping with his spiritual development/mature. He invested in him.

This forms a unique bond and we can only understand that if we ourselves have been a part of such a spiritual relationship.

Timothy's spiritual father was Paul

Paul is in prison and he is facing death. He is sending a message to Timothy:

- First, to fan the flame (vs. 6)
- Second, to be courageous

I have entitled today's sermon "A Call to Courage"

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

II Timothy 1:7-12

Let us pray

You may be seated

## A Call to Courage

### Vs. 7a – Spirit of Fear (dread, worry, being anxious, scared, fret)

Facing surgery; teaching Sunday School for the first time; candidating as a pastor, standing before people to make a presentation

This is the wrong kind of fear—we can be sure that any **spirit of fear** we might have is not from God.

The right kind of fear is a fear of God, in the sense of awe, reverence and respect of God Almighty.

The Bible tells us to fear God, not to fear man.

God has not called us to be a coward—this shameful fear is generated by weak faith.

Afraid to tell someone something

Afraid to ask someone something

Afraid to witness, knock on a door

The Lord is never responsible for our cowardice, our lack of confidence, or our being shameful of Him.

God has not given us a spirit of fear

This is what God said Jeremiah: **Jeremiah 1:8**, *“Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.”*

How many of us have been afraid of people, to face a person

Gideon was to fight the Midianites and God said to him:

**Judges 7:3**, *“Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, ‘Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead.’ And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.”*

This fear is not of God

What does God give us so that we will not fear?

The resources we have from our heavenly Father are **power and love and a sound mind**.

Power – *dunamis* – dynamic, dynamite

Natural/physical – fear – supernatural power – of God

*Dunamis* (**power**) denotes great force, or energy.

God provides us with His **power** in order for us to be effective in His service.

**I Corinthians 2:4**, *“And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.”*

What do we have from God? – Power!

Secondly, love – unconditional

- The love we have from God is *agape* – it is not emotional and conditional
- The love we have from God is constant.

Let us not worry whether people love us or not

Thirdly, a Sound Mind

A sound mind is a disciplined mind / secure mind

Many people are defeated between their ears even before they step on the playing surface because of fear

When we are compromising, waffling, wishy washy, we can be sure it is because our focus is on ourselves and our own human resources rather than on the Lord and His available divine resources.

We should be disciplined Christians rather than slaves to our emotions.

Overcoming emotions means not letting our emotions stop us from doing something we should be doing.

All believers possess these marvelous, God-given endowments: **power**, to be effective in His service; **love**, to have the right attitude toward Him and others; and **discipline**, to focus and apply every part of our lives according to His will.

Fear is real—young people—what people think, how they are perceived

How can we defeat it? Power – love – discipline our thinking

And, if these three items are used in Timothy's life, he would not be ashamed.

### **Vs. 8a**

Don't be ashamed – embarrassed of Jesus Christ and what He stands for

- Those who should be ashamed are those who live in direct defiance/opposition to Christ and His Word. Shacking up, adultery, homosexual sins, pornography, cussing.

Sin used to be hidden in our country because people were ashamed of it.

Not any more. Now there is no shame except for being associated with Christianity.

**Romans 1:16**, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.”*

Paul said in vs. 8b – “Timothy, don't be ashamed of me.”

When we stand with people – we will get hurt – people are fickle, ride the bus as long as it benefits them and then they will throw you under the bus, 1:15, 4:10-11, 16

Instead of living in fear and being ashamed of who we are and who we stand for and who we represent

The Bible says, “Be a partaker” (vs. 8) – take all that comes with Christianity

- the good and the bad – 2:20
- honor and dishonor – hypocrisy, words of people, sufferings, rejection

We need to accept the consequences of being faithful – ostracized by society, cast out of our family

Paul advised Timothy to prepare himself for misunderstanding, animosity, and rejection. Do not be afraid to name the name of Christ or to be known as my friend and fellow laborer.

At the time this letter was written, probably in A.D. 66, being a Christian not only brought criticism but frequently persecution, imprisonment, and even death.

To be associated with the Lord and with Paul could be costly (Acts 16, Paul and Silas were in jail.)

This is why God calls on us to be baptized, so that we can be identified with Christ, not ashamed of Jesus Christ and we will publicly state it.

Paul was so engulfed in God’s power, love, and truth that he did not even consider himself to be a **prisoner** of Nero, but rather a prisoner of the **Lord** Jesus Christ. I am arrested by God and I willingly stay in the chains of Christianity.

### **Vs. 8b**

Paul calls on Timothy to join him in suffering with the Gospel

Time out, Timothy, let’s have a little review.

### **Vs. 9**

First, God saved us and called us to a holy life.

What is a holy life – separated life – separated from sin and unto God

Many Christians are not willing to do this.

It will make them stand out in a crowd, different, peculiar.

Drink alcohol, watch this movie . . . . .

Paul is reminding him of the truths of the gospel! Truths that should motivate every believer to faithfulness, to courageous witness and Godly living for Jesus Christ.

Our salvation was not based on us – human works have no part to play in our salvation.

This salvation was because of His own purpose and grace (vs. 9) – This is the core of the Gospel – Ephesians 2:8-10; God comes to save us and clean us up.

- Salvation was not an afterthought to God – Vs. 9e – Before time began, God planned this.

The purpose of God is – that we might glorify God through Jesus Christ His Son by being obedient to this Book – exalt, glorify, praise and obedient living, Biblical lifestyle

### **Vs. 10**

When Jesus came, He paid sins penalty – now spiritual death can be replaced by spiritual life.

Of our Savior, Christ Jesus – vs. 10

Both God and Christ are called “Savior” – Vs. 9 & 10 – Trinity

What has our Savior done?

He has abolished death – death is the product of sin – vs. 10

**Abolish** literally means to render inoperative.

- It is not that **death** no longer exists or that we can escape from it.
- But for believers, **death** is no longer a threat, no longer an enemy, no longer the end.

Death means something altogether different to the child of God – Christ made it of no effect. Christ has taken the sting out of it.

Death is the gateway to Heaven and the presence of God.

More than simply abolishing death, at His first appearing Christ **brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.**

When we understand – grasp all that God has done for us as sinners, no sacrifice of ours can compare with His!

We should not fear but be courageous.

### **Vs. 12a**

Paul was the example of courage

He suffered because he faithfully preached, because he proclaimed that truth without hesitation, and because he interpreted that Word and let the chips fall where they may.

Very often, the price of devotion to Christ is affliction by the world.

- **Philippians 1:29**, *“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake.”*
- **I Peter 4:12**, *“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.”*

**Suffering** is the inevitable cost of Godly living (II Cor. 6:4-7; Acts 5:41).

The early disciples rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

Vs. 12b carries the idea of knowing with certainty.

The word “know” here means “beyond a shadow of a doubt”

**I am convinced that God is able, [powerful enough] to guard – Keep – military word – guard – what I have entrusted to Him.**

Paul was **convinced** not only by God’s promises but also by God’s constant faithfulness.

So Paul did not fear. He was not ashamed and he showed great courage as a believer.

What are we afraid of? Suffering, death, people?

In these difficult days, it is important we stand true to Christ and be willing to suffer for Him and not be ashamed.

Let us stand for closing invitation. Every eye closed

Are we cowardly, do we fear?

God did not give us a spirit of fear

Stand up and be counted, young person – in the work force, at home.

When fear comes in, let us tell ourselves, “This is not from God.”

Let us use the power and love of God and the truth of God to have a stable and secure mind.

God said He saves us, He saves us from sin. Every person needs to be saved because every person is a sinner.

## Rear of Document

God has provided everything we need for everyday faithful living and service when we first believed.

Shameless suffering (II Tim. 1:8-12) “Not ashamed” is a key idea in this chapter: Paul was not ashamed (vs. 12); he admonished Timothy not to be ashamed (vs. 8); and he reported that Onesiphorus was not ashamed of Paul’s chain (vs. 16).

In these difficult days, it is important that we stand true to Christ and be willing to suffer for Him and not be ashamed.

Paul would not ask Timothy to do what he would not.

**Join with me, he said, in suffering for the gospel**

Paul called on Timothy to share his own greatest desire, his supreme purpose in life (Phil. 3:10; I Peter 4:14-15; II Tim. 3:12).