

BE NOT ASHAMED

Page 1

INTRODUCTION

- A. TEXT: *“Be not ashamed therefore of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but suffer hardship with the gospel according to the power of God;”* (II Tim. 1:8).
1. To Timothy and all who are to share the gospel with the world.
 2. The testimony of OUR Lord. It was a new and different message for the world, and much of it would be quite strange to them.
- B. ASHAMED BY DEFINITION: Vine.
1. “To have a feeling of fear or shame which prevents a person from doing a thing.”
 2. “The feeling of shame arising from something that has been done.”
 3. And even stronger version of the word occurs in II Tim. 1:8. Translated -
- “**Be Not Ashamed.**”
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IN THE CHAPTER

- A. NOTE in this chapter the meaningful recurrence of the expression “not ashamed.”
1. Timothy must not be ashamed. v. 8
 - a. Of the testimony of our Lord.
 - b. Or of Paul “his prisoner”.
 - c. * Paul did not say prisoner of Rome, But of the Lord.
 2. PAUL....*I am not ashamed*...
 - a. Was a prisoner.
 - b. Was suffering much.
 - c. Knew that his life was almost over. (II Tim. 4:6).
 3. ONESIPHORUS was not ashamed to be with Paul.
 - a. Sought him diligently.
 - b. Found him and oft refreshed him.
- B. THE OBVIOUS MESSAGE:
1. Be not ashamed **OF THE MESSAGE.**
 2. Be not ashamed **OF THE LIFE!**
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Page 2

THE TESTIMONY

A. WAS IS THE “TESTIMONY OF OUR LORD?”

1. THE WORDS “Doctrine”, “Teaching” and “Testimony” are used interchangeable.
2. *“If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness....”* (I Tim. 1:10).
3. This doctrine was complete, all sufficient and as the gospel, it was God’s power to save (Matt. 10:19-20; 28:18; Romans 1:16; James 1:21-22; 2 Pet. 1:3; Jude 3.).

B. *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work”* (II Tim. 3:16,17).

C. NOTICE the many times the New Testament emphasis “doctrine”.

1. “...continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine” (Acts 2:42).
2. It was the obedience to form of doctrine that set them free from sin and made it possible for them to become servants of righteousness (Rom. 6:17).
3. An elder is to *“hold fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict”* (Titus 1:9). (See also; II Tim. 1:13; Titus 2:1,7; Titus 2:2,10)

HOW AND WHY

A. HOW WOULD ONE BE ASHAMED OF HIS TESTIMONY?

1. By not proclaiming all of it. *“For I shrank not from declaring unto you the whole counsel of God.”* (Acts 20:27).
2. To make excuses for it. It’s old, outdated..
3. When we fail to give answer... *“...being ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear:”* (I Pet. 3:15).

B. WHY WOULD ONE BE ASHAMED OF HIS TESTIMONY?

1. Because it makes us stand out as different from the world.
2. So many times we don’t want to be different, we want to blend in.

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Page 3

C. EXAMPLES:

1. How many “churches” are there. How do you answer.
 2. The Challenge....”Do you think that you are the only ones going to heaven
 3. Baptism....Do you believe in “water salvation”, etc.
 4. Instrumental Music, can’t you afford a piano.
 5. Complete Obedience, or Saved by Grace Alone, Etc, ETC.
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OPPOSITES

- A. We sometimes have a better understand of a matter or teaching by looking at its opposite.
 1. “Blessed are the Peace Makers..... Opposite is Peace Breaker.
 2. “Golden Rule” Opposite....
 3. “Steadfast, unmovable” Double minded man James 1:6-8.
 - B. TO BE ASHAMED..... Opposite is to be Proud.
 1. Proud to belong to Christ.
 2. Proud to live for Christ.
 3. To take our place and **STAND!** (Eph. 6)
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CONCLUSION

- A. *“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial among you, which cometh upon you to prove you, as though a strange thing happened unto you;”* (I Pet. 4:12).
 1. When they come upon you, and they will come...and
 2. *If a man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name.”* (I Pet. 4:16).
 - B. BECAUSE YOU ARE...
 1. *“....an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, they ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light;”* (I Pet. 2:9).
 2. If you are not ashamed and live this life as God’s people....THEN....
 - C. ***“WHEREFORE GOD IS NOT ASHAMED OF THEM, TO BE CALLED THEIR GOD; FOR HE HATH PREPARED FOR THEM A CITY.”*** (Heb. 11:16).

“EVEN SO LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN; THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS, AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.” (Matt. 5:16).
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