

2 Timothy 1:8-18

1:6-2:13 Paul writes an extended exhortation to encourage him to endure in Christian ministry.

- In (8) Paul appeals to Timothy not to be ashamed either of the gospel concerning Jesus Christ or of him, his imprisoned representative.
- In (12) Paul makes it clear that his alignment with the gospel of grace was the reason that suffering came to him.
- In (16) Paul commended Onesiphorus because he was not ashamed to be associated with Paul even though Paul was imprisoned.

The key thing of which he might be ashamed is the gospel.

- it's the testimony about our Lord (8)
- it's the gospel that brings life and immortality to light by bearing witness to Jesus' destruction of death (10)
- it's the gospel of which Paul was a herald, an apostle and a teacher (11)
- it's the sound teaching which has a pattern to it (13)
- it's the good deposit that's precious and has to be guarded (14)

There are three direct commands from Paul

- In (8) he calls on Timothy not to be ashamed but to join with him in suffering for the gospel.
- In (13) Paul exhorts Timothy to maintain the pattern of sound teaching that he heard from him.
- In (14) Paul instructs Timothy to guard the deposit that was entrusted to him.

1. Suffer for the gospel that's saved you (8-10)

⁸So 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. ⁹He 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, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Paul reminds Timothy of three truths that will motivate his allegiance

Expositions for planters

1. The first encouragement to join with Paul in suffering for the gospel is **God's power to help us endure**
2. The second encouragement to join with Paul in suffering for the gospel is **God's calling to holiness**
3. The third encouragement to join with Paul in suffering for the gospel is **God's grace in the gospel.**

2. Preserve the gospel that's entrusted to you (11-14)

¹¹And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. ¹²That 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 what I have entrusted to him until that day.

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

Conclusion

The choice facing Timothy was exemplified in the two examples with which he closes this section: abandonment or association

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

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.