

No Shame
2 Timothy 1:8-18
October 19th, 2025

“To believe that the one preexistent Son of the one true God, the mediator at creation and the redeemer of the world, had appeared in very recent times in out-of-the-way Galilee as a member of the obscure people of the Jews, and even worse, had died the death of a common criminal on the cross, could only be regarded as a sign of madness. The real gods of Greece and Rome could be distinguished from mortal men by the very fact that they were *immortal*—they had absolutely nothing in common with the cross as a sign of shame . . . and thus of the one who . . . was “bound in the most ignominious fashion” and “executed in a shameful way.” Martin Hengel

“.....who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame....” Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)

There’s no shame in believing the message of the gospel (v. 8a)

^{8a} Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner,

“For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” 2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)

²³ About that time, there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. ²⁴ For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. ²⁵ These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. ²⁶ And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. ²⁷ And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship.” ²⁸ When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” Acts 19:23-28 (ESV)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” Romans 1:16 (ESV)

“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20b (ESV)

There’s no shame in suffering for the gospel (vv. 8b-12)

^{8b} but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,

Why can believers confidently share in suffering for the gospel without shame?

1) Because our salvation is secure in Christ.

⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

“He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.” Ephesians 1:4 (ESV)

²⁸ “I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, ^[a] is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.” John 10:28-29 (ESV)

2) Because death has been defeated by Christ.

¹⁰ and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

“Through [Jesus'] death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.” Hebrews 2:14 (ESV)

“Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” 1 Corinthians 15:54-55 (ESV)

3) Because God is faithful to His people.

¹¹ for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, ¹² which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed,

and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.

“Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy.” Jude 1:24 (ESV)

He Will Hold Me Fast, Ada Habershon

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast; When the tempter would prevail, He can hold me fast!

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast; For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

I could never keep my hold, He must hold me fast; For my love is often cold, He must hold me fast.

I am precious in His sight, He will hold me fast; Those He saves are His delight, He will hold me fast.

He'll not let my soul be lost, Christ will hold me fast; Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

There's no shame in following and guarding the teaching of the gospel (vv. 13-14)

¹³ Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:14, 16, 20-21 (ESV)

“Ultimately, it is God himself who is the guarantor of the gospel. It is his responsibility to preserve it. We may see the evangelical faith, the faith of the gospel, spoken against everywhere, and the apostolic message of the New Testament ridiculed. We may have to watch an increasing apostasy in the church, as our generation abandons the faith of past generations. Do not be afraid! God will never allow the light of the gospel to be finally extinguished. True, he has committed it to us, frail and fallible creatures. He has placed his treasure in brittle, earthenware vessels. And we must play our part in guarding and defending the truth. Nevertheless, in entrusting the deposit to our hands, he has not taken his own hands off it. He is himself its final guardian, and he will preserve the truth which he has committed to the church. We know this because we know him in whom we have trusted and continue to trust.” John R. Stott

An example of two who were ashamed of the gospel: Phygelus and Hermogenes (v. 15)

¹⁵ You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.

An example of one who was not ashamed of the gospel: Onesiphorus (vv. 16-18)

¹⁶ May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, ¹⁷ but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me—

¹⁸ may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

“You should know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I shall see you if he comes soon.” Hebrews 13:23 (ESV)

“For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.” Luke 9:26 (ESV)

“For the word of the cross is folly [foolishness] to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18 (ESV)

I'm Not Ashamed to Own the Lord, Isaac Watts

I'm not ashamed to own my Lord, or to defend his cause, maintain the honor of his Word, the glory of his cross.
Jesus, my God! I know his name, his name is all my trust; nor will he put my soul to shame, nor let my hope be lost.

Firm as his throne his promise stands, and he can well secure what I've committed to his hands 'til the decisive hour.

Then will he own my worthless name before his Father's face, and in the new Jerusalem appoint my soul a place.