



enduring faithfulness

2 TIMOTHY SERIES WEEK 2

enduring faithfulness
in suffering

APRIL 18 2021

2 TIMOTHY 1:8-18

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sermon outline NOTES

I. Unashamed suffering for the gospel (2 Timothy 1:8)

- A. Being unashamed of Christ or his servants
 - 1. To many, Jesus is shameful **[1 Corinthians 1:22-24]**
 - 2. To many, Jesus' servants are shameful
- B. Like Timothy, we are invited to join Paul in suffering for the gospel **[2 Timothy 1:8c]**
 - 1. We ought not to suffer for being sinful, but for being Christians **[1 Peter 4:12-16; Matthew 5:10]**
 - 2. We suffer for, or because of, the gospel **[Philippians 1:29; 1 Corinthians 1:18]**
- C. Our share of suffering is empowered by God **[2 Timothy 1:8c; Romans 1:16; 2 Timothy 1:7]**

II. The gospel of God's grace (2 Timothy 1:9-12a; Acts 20:24)

- A. God's sovereign grace to save and sanctify **[2 Timothy 1:9]**
 - 1. Salvation is by grace through faith **[Ephesians 2:8-9]**
 - 2. God chose us to be saved and sanctified **[Ephesians 1:4-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14]**
- B. God's eternal grace for sinners **[2 Timothy 1:9; Ephesians 1:4-5]**
- C. God's visible grace **[2 Timothy 1:10; Titus 2:11a, 3:4]**
- D. God's efficacious grace **[2 Timothy 1:10]**
 - 1. Death is abolished, and life and immortality are brought forth **[Hebrews 2:14-15; Romans 5:20-21]**
 - 2. The gospel makes this known
- E. God's missional grace **[2 Timothy 1:11-12a]**
 - 1. Paul was appointed to herald, carry, and explain the gospel **[Ephesian 3:7-12]**
 - 2. The gospel mission is the reason why Paul suffered and why we will suffer with Paul **[2 Timothy 1:12a; 2 Timothy 3:12]**

III. Guarding the good deposit, which is the gospel (2 Timothy 1:12b-18)

- A. God will guard the gospel **[2 Timothy 1:12v; Jeremiah 1:12; Isaiah 55:11]**
- B. How we can guard the gospel **[2 Timothy 1:13-14]**
 - 1. By being clear, accurate, and faithful to it **[2 Timothy 1:13]**
 - 2. By the Holy Spirit **[2 Timothy 1:14; 2 Timothy 1:7]**
- C. The shamed and unashamed **[2 Timothy 1:15-18]**

2 Timothy 1:8–18

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, **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, **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, **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. **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.

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

sermon reflections

1. When you think of “shame”, what comes to mind? What would being ashamed of Christ, the gospel, or other Christians look like?
2. What are some ways Christians today suffer for the gospel? Are there instances when Christians claim to suffer for the gospel but are in fact suffering for another reason? Give examples.
3. Why is the gospel called “the gospel of the grace of God” (**Acts 20:24**)?
4. How would you summarize what Paul writes in verses 9–12a? What aspects of God's grace leads you to praise God for His grace (**Ephesians 1:6**)?
5. What are some tangible ways to guard the gospel? Why is it so important that we guard “the good deposit”?

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2 TIMOTHY 1:8-18



2 Timothy 1:8–18 ENDURING FAITHFULNESS IN SUFFERING

reading THE letter

Making observations in a passage is the best way to become familiar with it and grasp the basic meaning. One helpful technique is to use a notebook (or separate piece of paper) and make the following observations—

- List any **People**—
- List any important **verbs** (actions), **repeated words/phrases**, or other **theological/special terms**—

2 Timothy 1:8–18 ENDURING FAITHFULNESS IN SUFFERING

observations

1 How does "therefore" (in 1:8) connect to the previous section?

2 How does Paul connect suffering, the gospel, and God?

3 What are the ways that God is connected to being a savior in this passage?

summary sentence

In your own words, summarize this passage in 1–2 sentences—

paul's encouragement TO timothy

Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter. This provides some important context, as he was experiencing suffering and public shame for the gospel. Rather than use his situation as an excuse to garner sympathy, he instead challenged Timothy to be bold in his calling, even if that meant Timothy experienced the same thing as he had. Throughout his ministry, Paul was consistent in his hope of the gospel, as he wrote in places like Romans that, *"I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith'"* [Rom. 1:16–17]. Paul goes on to describe the effects of the gospel—that it brings salvation—through the Triune God of Israel.

paul's encouragement TO US

The gospel is the good news about what God has done in Jesus—that in His, life, death, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus has reconciled people to God, and has established His everlasting Kingdom! This is good news because any rebel who repents can become a citizen of this kingdom. But this is not something that we have to muster up the strength to do on our own. It's actually God who saves, through Jesus, and by the dwelling presence of His Holy Spirit. In this passage, Paul displays how it's the Triune God, working in complete unity, who saves: God (the Father) whose power saved us **[1:8, 9]** and called us to a holy calling. Jesus Christ, who is our savior **[1:10]**, who abolished death through His resurrection. And the Holy Spirit who dwells within the believer and guards the good thing that is entrusted to them **[1:14]**.

While we often refer to Jesus as our Savior, we also must remember that the New Testament connects the other two Persons of the Trinity (Father and Spirit) to our salvation. While the Father is the one usually credited with the sending of the Son **[John 3:16; Acts 2:22–24; Isa. 53:10]**, the Father also saved us **[Jude 1:25; 1 John 5:11–12; 1 Pet 1:3]**. Also, while the Spirit's role is primarily to empower the church, the Spirit is also involved in conviction of sin **[John 16:8]** and regeneration **[John 3:5–8; Titus 3:5]**.

Therefore, it is the Triune God who saves. And while a detailed Trinitarian theology might not have been systematically worked out for the first few generations of church history, we can certainly see how the early Christians were Trinitarian in their understanding of God.

2 Timothy 1:8–18 ENDURING FAITHFULNESS IN SUFFERING

presenting ourselves approved TO THE world

responding questions

- 1 Shame is a powerful thing. We live in a time and culture in which identifying oneself with Jesus can be extremely shameful (either because the world hates Jesus, or because the church has embarrassed itself in how it portrays Jesus). What are ways you can learn to rely on God's grace and power to "suffer for the gospel"?

2 Timothy 1:8–18

ENDURING FAITHFULNESS IN SUFFERING

responding questions

- 2 When you read Scripture or think about God, how often do you think of God as Triune? Is this a topic you've ever really studied?

Do you think about how the different Persons of the Trinity acted in salvation history? How can you continue to grow in your knowledge of God, and how He's been identified throughout the history of the church?