

*8Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 10but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. 12For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. 2 Tim 1:8-12*

We looked at this passage last time but it seems good continue looking at what Paul wrote here to Timothy, *do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God*. Don't be put off by the Lord, *ashamed of the testimony of our Lord*. The Greek word Paul uses here is *marturion*: a testimony, a witness, evidence, proof. This is where we get the word martyr, a person who is killed because of their religious or other beliefs. Paul's encouragement to Timothy was to not be ashamed of being a witness for the gospel. Or for the fact that Paul, himself, was in prison for the gospel. The NLT paraphrases this passage, *So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, either, even though I'm in prison for him*. Paul wanted to encourage Timothy to hold fast to the testimony of Christ even though it would cause suffering in this present life, *join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God*. The Geneva Bible, first published in 1557 contained this comment of this passage, *This Gospel is said to be in a way afflicted in those that preach it*. Paul knew this personally but didn't want this fact to shake Timothy's faith.

*Timothy might easily be tempted to be ashamed of one in prison, especially as not only worldly shame, but great risk, attended any recognition of Paul the prisoner. Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary*

Instead Paul wrote for Timothy to join him, *in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God*. The Geneva Bible translates this passage, *be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God*. Paul understood standing for the gospel, the truth of the salvation of God in Christ, caused a mighty conflict with the kingdom of this world, between light and Darkness. This was to be seen as in line with, *according to the power of God*. Paul wanted Timothy to keep the present situation in an eternal perspective. He had written the Corinthians, *our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory 2 Cor 4:17* To the Philippians Paul had written, *it is God which works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Phil 2:KJV*

*what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places. Eph 1:19,20*

So for the Christian, God is involved in every detail of life, even our trials and suffering for the gospel. Later in this letter to Timothy Paul wrote, *All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 2 Tim 3:12* The Gospel has a way of afflicting those that preach it, like Paul. He writes the Corinthians, answering accusation that believers are out

of their minds, *If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. (NIV) For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 2 Cor 5: 13,14* The believer lives a born again life by the power of the Holy Spirit working in them, *according to the power of God, the love of Christ controls (compels, controls) us* This power produces a burden, a calling and a conviction in hearts so that one can’t help but preach. It places a mark of being a witness on all believers for we are bought with a price and transformed into *temples of the Holy Spirit.*

*19Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.1 Cor 6:19,20*

Now, looking back at our passage from Timothy, Paul stated God had this plan of the redemption of man *from all eternity, according to His (God’s) own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.* We can see why Paul proclaims he is not ashamed of the gospel, *For 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.* This is God’s plan to take away the Sin of Man, the mark we all received because of our Adamic, fallen nature.

*9who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 2 Tim1:9*

*Who has saved us,* God saved us *from all eternity.* Before the foundation of the world, before He created the material world, God had this plan for the redemption of the whole family of Man. Peter tells how this redemption was so much greater than the redemption of sacrifices under the Law in the OT.

*18Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 1 Pet 1:18-20*

This redemption was *foreordained (planned beforehand) before the foundation of the world (the creation of the world), from all eternity.* And from the beginning it was *not according to our works.* Salvation was never meant to be the result of our good works that any man was able to do. Ephesians 2:9, *not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.* Paul states why man, by good works, could not make himself right with God; we are all weak in the flesh (our fleshly natures) because of our sin natures resulting from the fall.

*For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, Rom 8;3*

This was *according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus.* This is God’s plan of redemption. Paul writes, *He(creator God) made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him (Christ Jesus) Eph 1:9.*

*4Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy*

*and without fault in his eyes. 5God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. Eph 1:4,5*

Jesus stated He believers to be with His, *those God have given Him before the* ,

*“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. John 17:24*

You can see why Paul was so sold out for the gospel, he understood the immensity of what God had brought him to. This was not some plan of man, a religion of works men devised to earn salvation and to appease the gods, This was the plan of God and Jesus Christ, *great high priest who has passed through the heavens.*

*14Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb 4:14-16*

But at the right time Christ died for the ungodly, *while we were still helpless (without strength), at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Rom 5;6* To Timothy Paul writes but now, *now has been revealed.* The plan of God from all eternity was in Christ revealed, and Paul was made a minister of that great gospel plan, *Christ dying for the ungodly sinner.* And then transforming them, abolishing death and bring new life (born again existences)and give immortality (eternal life to those who would accept Christ's sacrifice for sin) 2 Tim 1:10 Paul wrote Timothy but now,

*10 but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel 2 Tim 1:10*

*3So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. 4But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Gal 4:3-5*

In Christ the eternal plan of God was made manifest, reveal, fulfilled. *He (God) made Him (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Cor 5:21* Paul was convinced that he had found the pearl of great price and for the gospel he considered all things as worthless, of much lesser value.

*7But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Phil 3:7-11*

Even though there is such a great cost in following Jesus, Paul encouraged Timothy to follow in his footsteps. May we to repent of our sin in Adam and by faith count knowing Christ our great prize, embracing *the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*