

**Text:** 2 Timothy 1:9-10

**Title:** Salvation from the Lord

**Truth:** To combat shame in Christ, remember the power of God.

**Date/Location:** Sunday June 5, 2016 at FBC

## Introduction

The Lord's command is that the person of God be bold for the gospel of God. He is not ashamed to call us His children; we ought not to be ashamed to call Him our Father! Timothy may have been growing weak in this part of his life because of heavy and fearful pressures all around him, so Paul wrote to strengthen him and remind him that to combat fear, he needed to:

1. Stir up the gift from God that he had, that is, to be actively exercising that gift. His gift was in church leadership, preaching, teaching, and evangelism. If he wanes in that department, he will end up giving in to fear of man.
2. Remember the spirit that God has implanted inside of each believer. This spirit consists of power, love, and sound-mindedness, which comes from the capital-s Spirit who indwells the believer.
3. Face shame head on and resolve NOT to be ashamed of the gospel.
4. Be prepared to obey God even if it means suffering. Paul was suffering by being in jail and facing the soon prospect of death.

These were the truths we examined in our study of 1:6-8. Now we turn to verses 9 and 10. The obedience-in-spite-of-suffering that is called for above is empowered by God. He has applied His power to your life to bring you salvation and will give you strength to endure suffering. We can embrace that suffering instead of complain about it because of the power of God. Consider that power in verses 9-10.

## I. Recall what God has done for you and the power it took to do it, v. 9a

- A. God saved us out of sin. It takes miraculous power to make a spiritually dead sinner into a spiritually alive saint. Proof:
  1. First of all, it took a supernatural power to raise Christ from the dead (Eph. 1:19-20). It is that historical event, subsequent to His self-sacrificing atonement, which is the basis of our salvation.
  2. It also takes supernatural power to enlighten your eyes to your own sin. You don't **really** see it without God's help (Romans 3:23).

3. It takes supernatural power to change your nature. Jeremiah 13:23.
  4. It takes something beyond the natural to forgive sins. This is because sins are against God, not just other people. The Pharisees' outburst in Mark 2:7 is correct inasmuch as it is true that only God can forgive sins, because those sins are done against him (Psalm 51:4).
- B. God called us to be holy. It also takes miraculous power to set us on the narrow path and cultivate holiness within.
1. This is not the **general call** to salvation given by the preaching of the gospel to all people, as necessary as that is. Many are called...
  2. This is the **special call** of God, upon the preaching of the gospel, to draw sinners to Himself. ...But few are chosen (Matt. 22:14). This calling issues in a new legal standing (justification); a new righteousness in nature; a new desire to follow Christ; a hatred of sin and corresponding repentance concerning it.
  3. The holy calling means that God's direction for us, His goal for us, His desire for us, is to live holy lives. Kill sin, live for God! What does God want me to do? He wants me to trust Him through His Son Jesus Christ, and then He wants me to live for Him instead of myself.

## II. Remember that salvation is from God, not yourself, v. 9b

- A. The text says that God saves/calls people **not** according to works. If we were to be evaluated according to our works, we would be dead. The standard of our works is insufficient to meet God's qualifications. No one's resume or CV is good enough to earn a place in heaven.
1. Sadly, many people insist on being judged according to their works, and God will oblige them at the Great White Throne judgment. We read of this in Revelation 20:11-15. Review that section of Scripture briefly to remind yourself what will happen there.
  2. This obviously demands humility...intellectually, spiritually, etc.

Got up to here on 6/5/2016.

- B. Since God did not save Christians according to their works, on what basis does He save? God saves according to His own purpose and grace. God wanted to save Paul and Timothy, and anyone who is a Christian, and He applied His grace to get it done.
1. The basis and standard of salvation is not works of man, but the purpose and grace of God. He purposed—decided, wanted, ordained,

choose, etc.—each person who is a Christian. He gave his unmerited favor to each and every one of them.

2. How can you “get” that? Well, again, you cannot in yourself. But if you recognize your need for salvation because of your sin and call out to God to save you through Jesus, He will apply his grace to you, and you will find out just what His purpose was for you. I think those of us who are Christians can testify that when we really understood the gospel message, we intuitively knew that God wanted us personally to trust Him and commit our lives to Him. We understood that God's purpose and grace was in front of our eyes and all we had to do was ask for it. The same thing is available today to anyone who has ears to hear what I'm saying!

### **III. Know that God planned your salvation before time began, v. 9c-10a**

God planned to shower His favor upon Christians before we were alive.

- A. Of course, His grace could not be applied until we were alive, and even after that, at the moment we believed by His grace. But since this is a God thing, once He decided it was effectively "given to us in Christ Jesus before time began."
- B. God revealed the good news of His grace at the coming of Christ, v. 10a. To us, bound in time as we are, we cannot access the "before time began" stuff of God. We see, through the coming of Christ, God's plan beginning to come to fruition. We will see His coming again to complete His plan for the world. But when we believe in Christ ourselves, then we see God's purpose unfold for ourselves in our own lives.
- C. The fact that God has set such favor upon you ought to give you great encouragement and power, even in the midst of a society that wants to put you to shame for being a Christian. Will you rely on God, or depend upon the evaluation of worldly people for your self-esteem?

### **IV. Realize that Christ abolished death and brought eternal life, v. 10b.**

- A. Abolishing death means to render it powerless to keep its victims. His resurrection was the undoing of death. It cannot hold anyone permanently, not even unbelievers! They too will be raised (and judged) by God. Death itself is not absent; but its eternal power is gone.
- B. Life and immortality has been sought by mankind forever. Reincarnation, the fountain of youth, and the modern technological striving for long life are ways that people try to avoid death. But the world hasn't figured out yet what Christians already know—that Christ has solved the immortality

problem, and there is an easy way to participate. It just happens to require that you acknowledge your sin, your insufficiency, and your total dependence upon God. It requires you to acknowledge Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as coming in the flesh and dying on the cross for your sins and then rising from the dead. Then, calling out to the risen Christ for salvation, He promises you will have life and immortality.

## Conclusion

My invitation to you is to think right now about your life and what God would have you to do with it. I am not asking you to think about what **I** want you to do; or what **you** want to do with your life. I'm asking you to think about what **God** wants to do with your life. Adopt God's view as your own, and follow what God has said!

Back to the larger context, this is the way to be bold for God. When you have that grace, that power, that salvation, that holiness, that life and immortality, then you can be confident as you walk through life and even through persecution for God.

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