

THE BOOK OF SECOND TIMOTHY

"Be Not Ashamed"

2 Timothy 1:8-10

Introduction

1. Timothy really knew the salvation of the Lord. Both his mother and grandmother before him were born again. He had come from a Christian home (v.6)

2. The young Timothy was a gifted man (v.7). Unfortunately, he had allowed fear to inhibit the exercise of his gift (v.7). Paul urged him to see that God had provided him with power, love, and a disciplined mind.

3. In view of these truths, it is no wonder that Paul calls upon his colleague to assume a stance of clear-cut unashamedness. He asks for it in three directions:-

1. Toward the MASTER, our Lord. v.8.

The verb "be not ashamed" is in the aorist tense and shows that Timothy was not then at fault. Better rendered: "don't start being ashamed." Had it been present tense, the idea would be "stop being ashamed." Shame springs from opinions of men (Luke 9:26; 14:9; Rom. 1:16; Heb. 11:16; 12:2).

To have shame "of the testimony of our Lord," if taken objectively, means Timothy was not to be ashamed of his own witness concerning Christ. If subjectively, it means the Lord's testimony concerning Timothy. Both of these senses are involved. The use of "Lord" is an obvious reference to Christ, although the term is used of the Father (Rev. 11:15). This double-barreled concern of Paul has some application to modern days! Being Lord, we should divest ourselves of any shame concerning HIM.

2. Toward the MAN, apostle Paul. v.8.

It is wonderful to note here that Paul does not in anywise believe that his imprisonment is of Nero or any human ruler. It is related to the Lord! What a magnificent way to look at a jail experience. Paul is a prisoner for the sake of the Lord (Eph. 3:1; Philem 9).

3. Toward the MESSAGE, the Gospel. v.8.

This is not positively stated, but certainly meant when the text affirms to "be a partaker of the afflictions of the gospel." The Gospel will bring "ill-

treatment" (so Greek) upon those who take their stand with it. Both the Lord and Paul suffered for the Gospel. Paul calls upon Timothy not to be ashamed to endure this also. How moderns have tried to ease the pain of identification with Christ and His Gospel. When will we ever learn the truth of the Word (Gal. 6:14). There is a stigma that comes with the Gospel: This is the Gospel which:-

- a. Saves. v.9. The antecedent for the verb "save" is the noun "God" (v.8). Salvation, therefore is ascribed to Him. Salvation is a grand word, but shabbily used today. The Bible teaches that salvation is in three tenses: past (the guilt and penalty of sin) as here and Eph. 2:5; present (the power and habit of sin) as in I Cor. 1:18; and future (the very presence and connection with sin) as in Rom. 13:11. Glory to God for this all-encompassing word--salvation!
- b. Calls v.9. This does not refer to the call unto salvation (Matt.11:28), but the call to holiness which is the condition brought by salvation (I Cor. 1:9; Heb. 3:1; Phil. 3:14). Like the verb "save" this is also aorist and therefore punctiliar in action. Indeed, the call is dated as being "according to God's purpose and grace" and "before the world began" and therefore "in Christ." This puts the call to holiness on the terms of grace alone. It is something treated in the eternal counsel of God. It is "not of works."
- c. Works. v.10. The incarnation is meant by "manifest" and "appearing." The latter is also used of His second coming (Titus 2:13). It is the gospel which includes our Lord's work at Calvary. There He "abolished death" or rendered death ineffective. Death has lost its sting (cf. Heb. 2:14, 15): 1) Eternal death no longer exists for the believer. 2) Spiritual death is vanquished. 3) Physical death is robbed of its curse and turned to gain. Complementing these, He "has brought life and immortality to light." The full gamut of truth relating to the resurrection life is made known now.

Conclusion Anyone who sees the glory of the gospel will understand what Paul meant when he urged Timothy not to be ashamed! Whether the Lord, His servant (Paul), or the actual message of the Gospel--all is worthy of a forthright testimony! Blessed be God.