Grace Evangelical Free Church November 15, 2026

2 Timothy 1:8-14 Unashamed of our faith

When Paul wrote this letter, the persecution of Christians was widespread. They were mocked for their convictions and for believing in a crucified man. Temptations to shame are still prominent today, culturally targeted, digitally paced. Regardless, the admonition of Paul is:

2 Timothy 1:8a: "**Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord**"

- **Grammatical Usage:** "**do not be ashamed**" or in the Greek "epaischynthēs" means, "personal disgrace".

- **Literal Interpretation:** Don't be embarrassed to speak up for our Master…

- **Contextual/Comparison:** God keeps His Word: God continually uses His Word. According to **2 Timothy 1:8–14**, how can believers be unashamed of their faith in a world that is overtly antagonistic toward Christ, His people, and His Word?

I. The Challenge of Being Unashamed

A. The persecution of early Christians

1. Christians were mocked for their morality and belief in a crucified Savior
2. Many believers faced imprisonment and death for their faith.

B. The temptation to be ashamed of our faith

1. Believers face social pressure to compromise biblical convictions
2. Fear of people can become a spiritual trap (**Proverbs 29:25**)
3. Some fall away when persecution and trouble arise (**Matthew 13:21**)
4. Christ warns against being ashamed of Him and His words (**Mark 8:38**)

II. To Be Unashamed, We Must Be Empowered by God's Spirit (v. 8)

A. Recognize the Spirit's resources (**2 Timothy. 1:7–8**)

1. God has given us a Spirit of power, love, self-control, discipline = holiness

B. Depend on the Spirit to endure persecution

1. The Spirit empowers to proclaim God's Word boldly (**Acts 4:31**)

C. Abide in Christ to experience the Spirit's power

Remain in God's Word, worship and pray, walk in obedience (**Galatians 5:16**)

III. To Be Unashamed, We Must Accept Suffering as from the Lord (v. 8)

A. Recognize God's sovereignty over our suffering

1. Paul viewed himself as a prisoner for Christ, not merely a prisoner of Rome
2. God remains sovereign over human authorities and circumstances (**Romans 13:1b**)

B. Understand that suffering is purposeful

1. Suffering is a privilege (**Philippians 1:29**); trials make us depended on God
2. Suffering develops perseverance and spiritual maturity (**Rom. 5:3–4**; **Ja. 1:2–3**)

C. Respond to suffering with faith rather than shame

1. Avoid focusing exclusively on Satan, evil people, or corrupt governments

2. Trust God's sovereign purposes amid persecution

IV. To Be Unashamed, We Must Remember That Others Are Suffering as Well (v. 8)

A. Recognize that Christian suffering is shared
1. Paul encouraged Timothy to accept his share of suffering.
2. Believers throughout the world experience rejection, ridicule, job loss, imprisonment, and death
3. Other Christians often endure suffering more severe than our own

B. Remember that we are not alone in our trials
1. God provides a way to endure temptation and suffering (**1 Corinthians 10:13**)
2. Believers worldwide experience similar sufferings (**1 Peter 5:8–9**)
3. Remembering other believers encourages us to remain faithful

C. Practice transparency and vulnerability
1. Sin introduced a tendency to hide out of shame
2. Sharing our struggles allows others to help us
3. Our experiences can comfort and strengthen fellow believers (**2 Cor. 1:6**)
4. Vulnerability encourages others to persevere in their own trials

V. To Be Unashamed, We Must Remember the Greatness of the Gospel (vv. 9-10)

A. The gospel is great because it is the message of salvation
B. The gospel is great because it calls us to holiness
C. The gospel is great because it demonstrates God's grace
D. The gospel is great because it was revealed through Jesus Christ
E. The gospel is great because Christ broke the power of death
F. The gospel is great because it reveals life and immortality

VI. To Be Unashamed, We Must Remember Our Duty to Share the Gospel (vv. 11-12)

A. Recognize our responsibility to proclaim the gospel
1. Preachers proclaim the gospel as heralds
2. Teachers explain its doctrines and practical implications

B. Understand the authority behind our message
1. Christians proclaim the message entrusted to them by Christ

C. Remain faithful despite opposition
1. Christ sends His people into a hostile world (**Matthew 10:16**)
2. The gospel may offend those who reject its message
3. We must fulfill our responsibility regardless of the response

VII. To Be Unashamed, We Must Invest in God (v. 12)

A. Trust God because He is faithful and able to preserve what we entrust to Him
1. Paul knew God with certainty, would protect his spiritual investment

B. Entrust our lives to God
1. Living for Christ is worthwhile even when it brings persecution (**Phil. 1:21**)
2. Those who suffer for righteousness will receive heavenly rewards (**Matthew 5:10–12**)

C. Entrust our work to God
1. God is responsible for producing spiritual growth (**1 Corinthians 3:6**)
2. Our ministry is not wasted even when results seem limited
3. We must faithfully serve and leave the results to God

4. God can multiply our efforts for His glory

D. Entrust the gospel to God
1. Believers must guard and proclaim the gospel faithfully (**2 Timothy 1:14**)
2. God's purposes cannot ultimately be defeated by persecution
3. The gospel will continue even when individual believers die
4. Our salvation and service rest in the hands of a trustworthy God

E. Live with confidence in God's ultimate victory
1. God can preserve our lives and work for His purposes
2. Earthly losses cannot outweigh eternal rewards
3. A life invested in Christ is a life invested wisely

VIII. To Be Unashamed, We Must Keep Sound Teaching (vv. 13-14)

A. Hold firmly to healthy biblical teaching
1. Paul instructed Timothy to retain the pattern of sound words
2. Sound teaching must be guarded against corruption and loss
3. We must preserve biblical truth with faith and love

B. Understand sound teaching through disciplined study
1. Study God's Word diligently
2. Handle the Word of truth accurately (**2 Timothy 2:15**)
3. Avoid spiritual laziness and careless interpretation

C. Obey the teaching of Scripture
1. Practice what God's Word commands
2. Align our conduct with our professed beliefs
3. Avoid the hypocrisy that brings shame before others and God

D. Test all teaching against God's Word
1. Use Scripture as the standard for evaluating truth
2. Test cultural expectations and practices against biblical principles
3. Evaluate church teaching carefully
4. Follow the example of the Bereans, who examined the Scriptures (**Acts 17:11**)

E. Maintain sound teaching with faith and love
1. Believe God's Word and remain faithful to it
2. Love, study, meditate on, and share Scripture (**Psalm 119:97**; **1 Peter 2:2**)
3. Speak the truth in love (**Ephesians 4:15**)
4. Avoid truth without love, which becomes harshness
5. Avoid love without truth, which compromises biblical standards

F. Protect the truth entrusted to us
1. Identify and expose false teaching
2. Guard the church against doctrinal error
3. Share sound teaching so others can understand and obey it
4. Preserve biblical truth for future generations

G. Depend on the Holy Spirit to preserve sound teaching
1. Rely on the Spirit through prayer and fellowship with Christ
2. Ask God to guard our hearts and minds through His Word (**Psalm 119:37**)
3. Depend on the Spirit for discernment (**1 John 2:27**)
4. Trust the Spirit to help us teach truth and correct error

- **Conclusion:** Am I unashamed of my faith in Jesus Christ?