

Being Ashamed

"For 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."

II Timothy 1:12

Three times in II Timothy I, Paul talks about being ashamed. In verse 8 he charges 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." Then in verse 16 he says that Onesiphorus was not ashamed. "Timothy, I am not ashamed of Christ's gospel, neither was Onesiphorus, and I don't want you to be ashamed."

When you share with others "the testimony of our Lord," you can count on the world making a caricature of your boldness, often using ridicule and belittling to do it. Evidence suggests that many felt Paul was obnoxious and radical. The world wants you to be broad-minded, reasonable, willing to accept their premise that there are many roads to God, all equally good.

Faithfulness to Christ automatically places you in harm's way. "God did not give you a spirit of timidity," when He took up residence in your life, "but a spirit of power and love and self-control."¹ Thus Paul prayed concerning Onesiphorus, "may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day."² For our Lord Jesus assures us that "whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."³

¹ II Timothy 1:7 ² II Timothy 1:18 ³ Mark 8:38