

The Call to Courage

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Timothy 1:8-13.

B. There is pressure around us to be ashamed of the gospel.

II. Do not be ashamed of testifying to our Lord.

A. Timothy was not to be ashamed of testimony of the Lord, Paul or the gospel.

1. It is easy to be ashamed of the Lord because the Lord is invisible.
2. It was easy to be ashamed of Paul because he was a political prisoner.
3. It is easy to be ashamed of the gospel because it attacks the pride of man.

B. Paul helps Timothy to overcome shame through...

1. The power of God.

- a. It has been demonstrated for us through the transformation of individuals.
- b. God called us with a holy calling, which speaks to the reformation of life that continues.
- c. This power has been demonstrated in the historic work of Jesus.
 - 1) The death and resurrection of Jesus accomplished the nullification of the power of death.
 - 2) It brings life and immortality to the believer.
- d. Paul has modeled the response to this shame.

1) Paul suffered because he was different.

2) Suffering can be a sign however, that one is being faithful.

3) God is our adequate resource.

2. Sound words.

a. The pattern of sound words is a guide to behavior.

b. They are a channel for love.

Application questions:

1 How have you struggled with shame over your faith?

2. How has someone encouraged you to share your faith through sound words? How would you encourage another?

3. How have you experienced God's power or seen God's power at work in others? How can a person draw from these experiences to be bold in their faith? Explain.
