

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:8-18

Note: Last time we talked about fanning the flame of our faith. This morning we will be looking at telling folks about the glory of the Gospel.

I. We should be anxious to testify for Christ. (8a) Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: That would be ashamed is pretty harsh. Don't be afraid to tell the world that you believe in Jesus. All of us have a testimony. We know people who do not have a relationship with Jesus. **1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:** Make sure the love of God be evident in your life so you can tell people about the hope they see in you. With meekness and fear means in a way that is non-offensive. You may mean well and have a pure motive but remember Satan is working against you, the world system which tells folks there are many ways to God; Jesus is just a way.

II. We should proclaim the glory of the gospel. (8b-10) We are saved for His glory.

1. We are all saved by the power of God. the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, It was God's plan to save us by His power not our power. The world is obsessed with power; political, financial, military, or technological power. None of that is permanent but God's power is different. *It saves us from sin and damnation and enables us to live a holy life that is beneficial for society and fits us for life in heaven. No other human message has the power to do these things, least of all so to change people on the inside that instead of living only to please themselves, they develop a concern for others and a desire to please God. That is a message our world sorely needs today, so why should we be ashamed of the gospel?*¹ Peter Williams, *Opening up 2 Timothy*, Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2007), 29. Think of it this way; the power that created everything there is called us and desires to change us to make our lives better. We did not earn this calling it is a gift of grace.

2. God has a purpose and plan for us. called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,¹⁰ **But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ** That word grace is so important. God knew before the foundation of the world that he was going to save me. When I review my journey to where I am today I realize that what I really deserve is damnation. This past week another one of my friends overdosed and died. Why did God deliver me and not someone else. I am saved for his glory and He knows what my purpose in Him is. There is an important purpose for Jesus we should never forget. **Grace and truth came through Jesus. John 1:16-18 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.** . Grace for grace means grace heaped upon grace or God continually giving us blessing we do not deserve. The Law is how a perfect God expects us to live. **(What is required to be Holy)** As for grace and truth; truth is still what is required to be holy. God's word is truth, he makes the rules and we must abide by the rules. When Jesus came to this world the scribes and Pharisees had added so many rules that God had not declared to be truth that He had to let folks know exactly what God considered truth. Jesus revealed the truth and grace is the way God gives us the power to experience the glory of God in our lives. **2 Corinthians 3:7-8; 14-18 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?.....But their minds were blinded: for until this day**

remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. The liberty spoken of is the right of access to a holy God. We are given the privilege of examining our lives in the light of God's word and under the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit. Each time God grows us through grace that is glory for God.

3. We must proclaim that Jesus conquered death. **2 Timothy 1:10** But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: Death does not have the final say Jesus conquered death when He arose from the dead. Heaven is real, eternal life is real. **John 11:25-26** Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: ²⁶ And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. **Believest thou this?** We have life because He has the power to provide it. We do have the promise of a future resurrection but also hope that at death we still live. Now we know to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

III. Stand firm in your calling. **2 Timothy 1:11-14** ¹¹ Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. ¹² For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. ¹³ Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us. Paul knew he was called to be an Apostle. Many folks know what they are called to do for God. I love to preach and teach the Gospel. Notice Paul say I have received an appointment from God. All pastors should have an appointment from God. The ministry is a calling not a job. The responsibility of the Pastor is to hear from God and proclaim what they have heard to the people. God gives the vision necessary to make sure the flock remains focused on Jesus. There will be folks who will attack the mission just like there were folks who attacked Paul and Timothy. Is there any wonder there were folks who attacked Jesus even to the point of crucifying him. Paul says I know who I have believed I know when God calls me he empowers me. Put this with **1 Corinthians 15:57-58** But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. That says no matter how hard it gets, no matters how many people say it won't work, you can't do that it will never work. The giant is too big and your resources are so small. Stand firm you are not fighting for victory you are fighting from victory.

IV. Be sure to appreciate those who build you up. **2 Timothy 1:15-18** This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶ The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain: ¹⁷ But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me. ¹⁸ The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well. There are those who want no parts of sacrifice for God. Paul ends this chapter by praising Onesiphorus, Paul say this man is someone I can count on; who will be there when I need him and will make sure I realize he will help in time of need. Paul knew Timothy needed encouragement. Sometimes what keeps a Pastor going is a few people who are on fire for the Lord with a hunger to get closer to Jesus.