

## **Living Faithfully: Living as Jesus' Disciple in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

### **Week 2: Faithfully Unashamed**

**Introduction:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:8-18

EXCERPT: *Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus* by David Platt.

Do not be ashamed of your Lord. Instead, embrace the passion of Polycarp, who refused to renounce Christ in the face of impending martyrdom. He said, "Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He never did me any injury; how then can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?"<sup>19</sup> Today we have all kinds of conflicting and competing ideologies.

One of the more prevalent worldviews cultural analysts have recently described is "moralistic, therapeutic deism" (Smith and Denton, *Soul Searching*). This is the belief that if people "do good," "feel good," and "believe in a god" (one who created the universe but is not really involved in the affairs of life), then there is a heavenly future awaiting them. The idea that we are actually "bad" and in need of a Savior is viewed as ignorant, primitive, or simply foolish.

Other worldviews have emerged, such as the new atheism. This militant brand of atheism rejects not just God but even rejects a respect for belief in God. Further, the continued growth of other world religions, many of which are hostile toward Christ followers, makes Paul's charge to Timothy in verse 8 all the more relevant. Remember Jesus' own words:

*For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. (Mark 8:38)*

Notice that the Savior says not to be ashamed of Him or of His words. Many will mock both the person and the words of Jesus. Gospel-centered bravery, on the other hand, requires that we take our stand with Jesus and His teachings and let the chips fall where they may.

**The Big Picture:** When we are not ashamed of Jesus we live out the Gospel faithfully even when hard times come because of our faith.

#### **Discussion:**

##### **Open:**

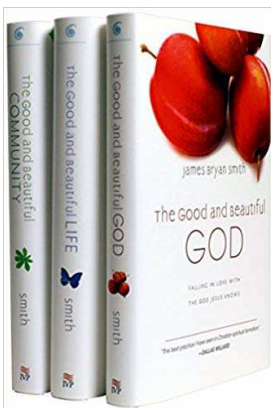
- Have you ever felt ashamed or been embarrassed because of Jesus? What about other Christians? How does this feeling affect the way you live with others?

##### **Discuss:**

Read 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:8-18. Review the sermon. Write down any questions you have or any statements that stood out to you.

At Cornerstone, we believe the following six values will help you live faithfully to Jesus in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: grace, growth, gather, gifts, generosity and goodness. These shaping values lead our discussion points.

- **Grace: Experiencing Regular Renewal and Refreshment through the Spirit**  
Pastor Jeremy said, “Religious people find God useful, but Jesus-followers find the Gospel beautiful.” Describe the difference between religious people and Jesus-followers.
- **Growth: Learning from and Applying the Word of God to My Everyday Life**  
Read v. 13 again. What is sound, or healthy, teaching have you received from this Scripture reading or from Pastor Jeremy’s teaching in this passage that encourages your faith today?
- **Gather: Experiencing Christian Community and Gospel Renewal with Others**  
How does connecting in community with other Christ-followers help “guard the Gospel”?
- **Gifts: Applying My Time and Talent for God’s Glory and the Benefit of Others**  
Paul writes that “this grace was given to us” (v9). How do we steward this grace as a gift toward others?
- **Generosity: Honoring God by Sharing My Resources to Benefit Others**  
Read verses 16-18 again. How does Onesiphorus model generosity for us today?
- **Goodness: Expressing the Gospel at Work through Love and Good Deeds**  
How does suffering for the Gospel show goodness to people who live far from God?



**Further Exploration on this Topic:**

*The Good and Beautiful Series* by James Bryan Smith

**From the Publisher:** James Bryan Smith believes the gospel is about change in our lives today, not just our eternal destiny. *In The Good and Beautiful Series* he aims to help Christians develop a robust discipleship by helping them understand who God is, what it means to be a Christian and what it means to live in community as a part of God's kingdom.

Throughout the series, which includes *The Good and Beautiful God*, *The Good and Beautiful Life* and *The Good and Beautiful Community*, Smith encourages you to read, journal, pray, discuss and participate in weekly spiritual exercises to help you engage with the text. As you work through the books individually (or more ideally in a group setting) you'll discover your heart being shaped by the truth of Christ—and your life being changed. Get to know the God Jesus knew and the Kingdom he proclaimed. The transformation you seek will come as a direct result of spending focused time with him and his people.

Link: <https://www.amazon.com/Good-Beautiful-James-Bryan-Smith/dp/0830835407>