



The following is the summary of the Sunday sermon that is sent to the body at Steadfast in an email called "The Weekly"

2 Timothy 1:8-18

Unashamed!

In 2 Timothy 1:8-18, Paul explains what courageous Christian living looks like, as well as, the motivation for courageous Christian living. In verse 7, Paul had just shared with Timothy that the Holy Spirit who lives inside of him is not a Spirit of timidity (cowardice), but One of power, love, and discipline (sound mind). He's telling Timothy this because ministry is filled with discouragement and difficulty. There is opposition from Satan and his allies because he does not want the truth of God proclaimed. Satan does not want people set free. He wants to keep people out of heaven. He wants to keep people in bondage to sin. Many times, the opposition comes from within (those who appear as "servants of righteousness"). Paul uses these verses to encourage Timothy to live courageously and help him understand what courageous Christian living looks like. Here are the points Paul makes about courageous Christian living.

- **Courageous Christian living means being unashamed of the testimony of Jesus.**
- **Courageous Christian living means being unashamed of God's people.**
- **Courageous Christian living means being willing to suffer for the Gospel.**
- **Courageous Christian living means being loyal to God's Word and unashamed of God's Word.** We are to make sure we hold fast to the precious truth of the Word of God and we are to do so with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. It takes courage and faith to speak truth in love.
- **The foundation (anchor) of Courageous Christian living is understanding the magnitude of God's grace through Jesus Christ.**

To hear these points explained in more detail, I encourage you to get online and listen to the message. As you seek to apply this passage to your life, ask yourself these questions:

- **Am I growing in my understanding and application of God's grace through Jesus Christ?**
- **Am I guarding the truth and unashamed of the testimony of Jesus? Am I doing this with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus?** Psalm 119:161b-162, "my heart stands in awe of your words. I rejoice at Your Word like one who finds great spoil." Is that how

you treat God's Word? Do you communicate His Word with love even when you are in tense conversations with others?

- **Do I have a Biblical view of suffering?** Most of the time when Christians suffer either their flesh or Satan puts these thoughts in their mind: "I must be out of the will of God." "God is punishing me for something I did in my past." "Maybe God is not good or loving."

Why is there suffering in this world? SIN. God can and does use suffering for His glory and our good. We love the fact that we are saved by grace. We love the fact that we are called to a holy calling by grace. We also must realize the suffering on this earth can also be a part of God's purpose and grace in our lives. Thankfully, His grace is sufficient even in our sufferings!

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