

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

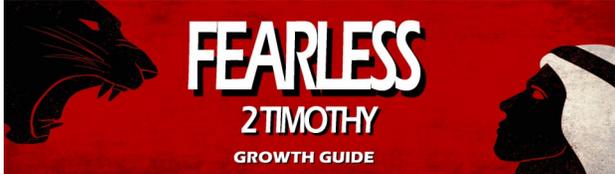
PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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FEARLESS
2TIMOTHY
GROWTH GUIDE

Handout: 5/14/2017
Study: 05/21/17

Fearless—Don’t be Ashamed

In 2 Timothy 1:8, Paul continued the emphasis on the power of God’s Spirit. His point was that God’s power would grant Timothy the courage to bear witness to Christ, even if that should involve suffering. Through the remainder of chapter 1, the theme of “not being ashamed” runs like a thread (vv. 8, 12, 16). The context is that of the Christian persecution and of Paul’s imprisonment. Paul urged Timothy not to be ashamed either of Christ or of his own imprisonment (v. 8). He then proceeded to set forth in greater detail the objects for which Timothy should feel no shame: the gospel of Christ (vv. 9–10), and Paul’s own ministry (vv. 11–12).

Paul was not ashamed of bearing witness to the gospel of God’s atoning work in Christ: “It is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16). In 2 Timothy 1:9–10, Paul expounded on God’s saving work in Christ with a terse summary of the gospel. God planned it from all eternity. He revealed it in the coming of Christ to earth. He accomplished it through the work of Christ, destroying death and bringing life and immortality in him. This salvation was not of our own doing but solely due to God’s own grace, though through it God calls us to a holy life. In the Neronian persecution Christians were tempted to deny the name of Christ in order to save their lives. Paul reminded Timothy that eternal life lies alone in a positive response to what God has done in Christ.

Paul was not ashamed of Christ. He lay in prison in Rome precisely because of his witness to the gospel. He now called on Timothy to follow his example of bold witness, even if it should lead to suffering (vv. 11–12). Paul described himself as a herald, an apostle, and a teacher. The herald proclaims the gospel. The apostle goes forth to share the gospel with those who have not heard it. The teacher applies the lessons of the gospel to life. Paul had fulfilled all of these roles and lay in chains for having done so. Paul was faithful to his calling because he trusted in the faithfulness of the God who had called him. Paul was secure in the promises of a gracious God who would keep him safely in trust until the life to come.

Verses 13 and 14 apply the lesson to Timothy, calling upon him to follow Paul’s example. Once again Paul talked of the sacred trust. This time he meant the true gospel which he had shared with Timothy. He called on Timothy to guard it against falsehood and to teach it faithfully and in love. God’s Spirit would empower him to discharge his ministry faithfully (v. 14; cp. v. 6).

John B. Polhill, *Paul and His Letters*.

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KEY VERSE

2 Timothy 1:8

“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God “

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: 2 Timothy 1:8-18

Introduction

How does it feel to be ashamed of something?

How easy is it for you to talk about your faith? What are some things that hold us back from telling others about Jesus?

Tuesday: Romans 1:15-17

Be Unashamed

What is Paul’s attitude towards the Gospel?

How does Paul describe the Gospel?

How do you describe the Gospel?

Wednesday: 1 Peter 4:12-17

Suffering for Christ

Paul wrote 2 Timothy while in prison and shortly before he was martyred for the Gospel. Re-read 2 Timothy 1:11-12. Why was Paul suffering?

How do you think he was able to still be unashamed of the Gospel given the hardships he suffered?

Thursday: Hebrews 12:1-3; 1 John 3:1-3

Example of Jesus

How was Jesus able to endure the shame of the cross?

What “joy is set before us” if we believe the Gospel?

How can we keep focus on our position as children of God and on our heavenly future and not give into fear?

Friday: Philippians 1:18-21

Six Reasons We May be Ashamed of the Gospel

1. We are ashamed of the Gospel because we are worried about offending people.
2. We are ashamed of the Gospel because we are a man pleaser rather than a God pleaser.
3. We are ashamed of the Gospel because we are afraid we can’t answer objections.
4. We are ashamed of the Gospel because we don’t take the Lordship of Jesus seriously.
5. We are ashamed of the Gospel because we don’t really believe the Gospel is true.
6. We are ashamed of the Gospel because we don’t even know what the Gospel actually is.

(Thinkapologetics.com)

Do any of the above reasons ring true in your life? If so, how can you overcome what is holding you back?