

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

September 2014

PAUL'S LAST WORDS: PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCTION

Why are some people 'ashamed' of the Gospel? How is this demonstrated?

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Read 2 Timothy 1:8-18

Note: Paul is writing this from prison after his first trial. The full trial was ahead but Paul did not expect to be released. According to tradition, he was beheaded shortly after writing this letter.

1. Why might Timothy be ashamed of Paul? v. 8
2. What is the value of a 'testimony' in general, and your testimony in particular?
3. What are the components of the Gospel? 1 Corinthians 15:3-6
4. How might we share in the suffering for the gospel?
5. What are some effects of the power of the gospel?
6. How did Paul feel about the Gospel? v. 12; Romans 1:16
7. What helps you have boldness/courage to share the Gospel?
8. How do we obtain sound doctrine (teaching)? v. 13; Titus 1:9
9. How do we maintain (guard) sound doctrine? v. 14; 1 Timothy 6:20 | 2 Cor 4:2

Note: To be a true Christian is to be a guardian of God's Word, to defend its authority and truthfulness, and not to dilute or distort its message to suit popular thinking.¹

10. What were the qualities Paul liked about Onesiphorus? Vv. 16-18
11. Do you have an Onesiphorus in your life? Are you an Onesiphorus to someone? Explain.
12. How is encouragement from a Christian different than encouragement from a non-Christian?

EVALUATION/APPLICATION

How might you be a more effective "Onesiphorus" to a friend or to your family this week?

So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, either, even though I'm in prison for him. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News
2 Timothy 1:8 (New Living Translation)

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel (good news) of Christ, for it is God's power working unto salvation [for deliverance from eternal death] to everyone who believes with a personal trust and a confident surrender and firm reliance, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16 (Amplified)

This is the Message I've been set apart to proclaim as preacher, emissary, and teacher. It's also the cause of all this trouble I'm in. But I have no regrets. I couldn't be more sure of my ground—the One I've trusted in can take care of what he's trusted me to do right to the end.

2 Timothy 1:11-12 (The Message)

¹ Williams, P. (2007). *Opening up 2 Timothy* (p. 33). Leominster: Day One Publications.