

# 2 Timothy Chapter 1

## Be Not Ashamed of Your Faith

When Paul wrote his Second Letter to Timothy, he was an old man, and he was lying in a prison cell awaiting a martyr's death. After Paul was gone, would others show the same love for the Gospel and work with the same zeal to have it spread as he had done? The apostle had learned by bitter experience that there were some on whom he could not depend. When they felt that their lives were in danger, they did not want others to regard them as Christians. But it comforted him to know that not all his friends were like that. Timothy certainly had proved that he was not ashamed of his faith.

## A Young Man with a Splendid Record

Read 2 Timothy 1:1–8. The apostle had become more closely attached to Timothy than to any other of his other co-workers. During all the years that Paul had known him, Timothy had given a good account of himself as a sincere and consecrated Christian. The training and the instruction in the Scriptures that he had received from his devout mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, had borne rich fruits in his later life. He had showed that he was not ashamed of his faith and of having been associated with the apostle whom the enemies of the Gospel sought to kill. No wonder Paul loved his much younger friend with great affection. Timothy's loyalty and sincerity filled Paul's heart with joy and thanksgiving to God (Philippians 2:19–22). What deep emotions he must have felt as he was writing his farewell message to his friend in faraway Ephesus! He could not forget Timothy's tears the last time they had parted. The great apostle never failed to include his faithful helper in his daily prayers. He knew what problems and dangers Timothy was facing as a pastor and as a Christian. Timothy had already suffered much for the sake of the Gospel, but he had remained faithful to the Lord and His apostle. Paul did not want his young friend to become discouraged or fear their enemies. He encouraged him faithfully to keep on using the splendid gifts God had given him, bravely to confess his faith before men, and patiently to endure afflictions and persecution.

59. Why is it a great blessing to grow up in a godly home?

60. What are the advantages of being a believer from early childhood?

61. Why should we daily remember our relatives and friends in our prayers?

62. When do we have a “sincere faith” (2 Timothy 1:5; 1 Timothy 1:5)?

### The Heroic Faith of St. Paul

Read 2 Timothy 1:9–14. All the years that Paul had been a Christian, he had to suffer for the sake of the Gospel, perhaps more than any other person. Now he was a prisoner in Rome for the second time, and it seemed certain that soon he would be led to his death. But Paul was unafraid and did not complain about his hard lot. While in the dark dungeon, he thought of the many good things that he enjoyed as a believer. Why should he fear people or worry about the future since Jesus had redeemed his soul, called him to faith and eternal salvation, and assured him by the Gospel of a glorious resurrection and everlasting life in heaven (Romans 8:18, 38–39)? God had revealed His love and mercy to Paul in a very special way by making him a preacher of the Gospel and the apostle and teacher of the Gentiles. He knew that neither suffering nor death could rob him of these blessings. His faith was firmly grounded on Jesus, and he was certain that the Lord would keep him in the faith unto his end. What a wonderfully strong faith and what a beautiful confession of faith in the darkest hour of trial (2 Timothy 1:12)! Paul was never ashamed of his faith, no matter how much he had to suffer on account of it. Oh, that we all had such a heroic faith (Philippians 1:21)!

63. When things are going bad for us, why should we not brood over our sufferings but think of what God has done for us?

64. Why should a believer at all times be certain that he or she will inherit eternal life?

65. Why should we never be ashamed of the Gospel (Romans 1:16)?

66. Why should we daily seek to grow stronger in faith? What means has God given us for this purpose?

### Loyalty to the Brethren

Read 2 Timothy 1:15–18. Soon after his second imprisonment, Paul was brought to trial before Emperor Nero. He had been accused of being the teacher of a religion that was forbidden in the Roman Empire. At that time, it was a dangerous thing to be known as a Christian or even to take sides with a person like Paul. Fearing that they might have to suffer imprisonment and death if they were seen in the apostle's company, some of Paul's former friends from Asia Minor hastily withdrew from him and tried to conceal the fact that they were Christians. Instead of helping and encouraging the apostle, they grieved his heart by their disloyalty. What was worse, in denying the apostle they denied Christ and showed that they had lost their faith. However, one friend of the apostle remained faithful and showed that he was a sincere Christian. Onesiphorus did all he could to comfort and relieve Paul in his distress. Although he seems to have had considerable difficulty finding the apostle, he was determined to help his beloved teacher. After a painstaking search, he found his friend and served him as best he could, just as he had formerly done in Ephesus. We do not know what had become of Onesiphorus when Paul wrote about him to Timothy. Perhaps Paul himself did not know, but he prayed that God would graciously reward Onesiphorus and his family for all the kindness they had bestowed upon him.

67. What is wrong with a church member who is ashamed of fellow Christians?

68. Why should we not consider our personal interests when our fellow Christians need our help?

69. How does God regard our service of love (Matthew 25:40)?

70. Do you know of any person whom you could cheer by a visit?