

## “LET ME NOT BE ASHAMED”

The psalmist David was surrounded by enemies. He was chased into exile by his father-in-law, King Saul, faced rebellion from his own son, Absalom, and was always harassed by the enemies of God. In many of the psalms, we find David praying for deliverance from his enemies.

In one such occurrence, we read, “Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause” (Psa. 25:1-3). Though it is the case that David prayed often that his enemies not triumph over him in a physical sense, and that such a triumph would bring shame and disgrace to David, it seems that an even sadder principle is here proclaimed. Sorrowfully, it is indeed the case that in regards to faithfulness to God, those who should be ashamed are not while those who need not be ashamed (due to their obedience to God) are. David proclaims his trust in God and prays that no temptation cause him to be ashamed of his faithful service to God. If an individual becomes ashamed of doing the Will of God, apostasy from the truth will follow. The enemies of God will stop at nothing to assault the faithful child of God and seek to make him ashamed. Harsh statements like, “you are unloving, unkind, and without compassion,” and “you think you’re the only ones going to Heaven” are attempts to make the Christian ashamed. If such an attack is successful, it is indeed a triumph over one’s faith.

The Bible teaches that the faithful child of God, they who “wait” on the Lord (25:3), has nothing for which to be ashamed. The apostle Paul states, “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth” (Rom. 1:16). Jesus proclaims, “whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels” (Mark 8:38). If we desire to be with Christ in eternity, we cannot allow anything today to make us ashamed of being wholly obedient to His Word.

On the other hand, they who should be ashamed are they who are not obedient to God. The psalmist states that disobedience to God is “without cause,” because there is no rational reason for transgressing God’s Laws. God is “good and upright” (Psa. 25:8), just (25:9), merciful and forgiving (25:7, 10). Any who will not or have not obeyed God should be ashamed. Shame can lead one to repentance. The inspired Paul writes, “if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, *that he may be ashamed*. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother” (2 The. 3:14-15, emphasis B.G.). Paul also states by inspiration, “godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death” (2 Cor. 7:10).

Let us remember the words of the inspired psalmist, “O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.” Let us never be ashamed of the truth of God’s Word and let us never be made to feel ashamed because we submit to it. Let us trust in the Lord and seek Him often in prayer that we do not succumb to the attacks of those who desire to “triumph over” our faith. Let us, with patience and love, seek to help those who are lost and those who have erred from the faith to understand that it is not shameful to preach and practice only that which God authorizes. The shame is to have a lifetime of opportunity to be faithful to God, but choose to reject His loving call to “come unto Me” (Mat. 11:28; Rev. 22:17).

