

## I AM NOT ASHAMED

Paul, by inspiration penned, “I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith” (Rom. 1:16-17). Paul’s reasoning for not being ashamed of the Gospel was due to the fact that God’s plan to save man is found therein. To Timothy, Paul wrote, “for the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know Whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day” (2 Tim. 1:12). Here, Paul introduces the idea of suffering and how it correlates with shame. Based upon Paul’s statement, it is noted that one could be made ashamed due to things which he suffered. Paul, however, was not ashamed despite the things which he suffered for the Cause of Christ. The word here translated, “ashamed,” is from a Greek word which means “to disfigure, to dishonor, to suffuse with shame; make ashamed” (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon). Paul therefore was proclaiming that the sufferings which he endured did not make him feel shame or dishonor. Though many tried to shame, disfigure, and dishonor Paul in an attempt to cause him to cease preaching the truth of God’s Word, Paul was not moved. Paul replied, “none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24). Because Paul loved Jesus and was convinced that Jesus was the Son of God and able to save the souls of those who obey, Paul would let nothing stop him from extolling the glorious Gospel of Christ. Paul would not be shamed, dishonored, or bribed with earthly wealth or fame into preaching anything less or other than “all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27). Paul was determined to continue preaching the truth even if it meant the loss of his life. “I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 21:13).

Many today are not ashamed to preach the truth of God’s Word, but once faced with shame or dishonor, they are willing to compromise. Though the words which they speak from the pulpit are true, their practice of compromise exposes that they are ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. Preferring the adoration and honor of men rather than the esteem and favor of the Redeemer, many have been shamed into practicing that which they have long taught against (cf. Acts 5:29). The threat of dishonor has led them to ignore the sins of “mighty” men and they have chosen “to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season” rather than “to suffer affliction with the people of God” (cf. Heb. 11:25).

Let us follow the example of the apostle Paul who was “not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ” and never shamed into compromising the truth of God’s Word for earthly wealth or honor.

- *Brad Green*