

**No shame in the gospel (1.8)**

- Timothy is in a really challenging situation. Paul knows him intimately and knows the challenges that may cause Timothy to second guess his commitment.
- The word for ashamed (epaisxýomai) connotes having misplace your support or confidence in someone or something.
- Paul doesn't sugarcoat the difficulty Timothy will face.
- Later Timothy would be imprisoned for the gospel, he remained faithful! (Heb. 13.23)
- Paul was in a dire situation. It could be easy to abandon him and think he was a loser.
- But Christ is bigger than our circumstances, and Paul's writing demonstrates this to Timothy.
- Paul tells Timothy to do what God has asked him to do, to step up to the plate and fan his gifts into flame. It's about a 100% commitment.

**The hymn (1.9-10, 11-12)**

- Paul recites the words of a worship song to remind Timothy of the Gospel.
- God has had the plan to save us from the beginning of time, Jesus is what everything and everyone was waiting for.
- This good news is why Paul is an apostle, he knows he has accurately placed his trust in Jesus Christ. He knows in whom he believes.
- Jesus had changed everything for Paul, and Paul trusts him more than anything else in the world. Jesus is present with Paul even now.
- After Paul is gone, Timothy can continue the work as Paul will continue his eternal relationship with Jesus.

**Paul's teaching and some positive and negative examples (1.13-18)**

- Paul has carefully shared the Word with Timothy.
- Timothy is commanded to guard this truth carefully. He must guard against fear, against the pressures of persecution.
- Timothy needs to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Because Timothy knows that there are those who have abandoned Paul and the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- But Paul also speaks of the kindness of Onesiphorus. Helping others in need is remembered and blessed.

**5 P's for moving forward in our Relationship with Jesus**

- **Press** into truth. Be aware of the enemy's scheme to bring distance, don't fall into cultural pressure because of fear or timidity.
- Walk in our **Purpose**—fan to flames the gift God has given us.
- Step up to the **Plate**—take our share of the carrying and cost of the Gospel.
- **Protect** our faith—guard the good deposit and walk in his blessing.
- **Pursue** the work of the Spirit—He gives us capacity and joy.

**Discussion Questions**

- Have you ever wanted to put distance between you and your faith? Why or why not?
- Describe a time you felt like you were on the losing side. What happened?
- Was there a time you came to sense Christ is bigger than your circumstances? How'd you get there?
- What is the benefit of remaining faithful in the face of pressure?