



Sunday, March 24, 2019

Pastor Don Denyes

## Intro to 2 Timothy 1:8-14

Pastor Don mentioned that the doctrine of election is always used for practical purposes in Scripture. If we are to live lives unashamed of Christ and His gospel, then one important piece is going to be to understand that doctrine. J.I. Packer describes it this way: “Before Creation, God selected out of the human race, foreseen as fallen, those whom He would redeem, bring to faith, justify, and glorify in and through Jesus Christ...in Scripture, it is a pastoral doctrine, brought in to help Christians see how great is the grace that saves them, and to move them to humility, confidence, joy, praise, faithfulness, and holiness in response.” (*Concise Theology*)

This signals to us that though the world may give us cause to be ashamed of Christ (either through mocking the message or our way of life or persecuting us some other way), we can be confident that, being chosen by God, we will not be ashamed in the long run. When Jesus returns and settles all the scores on the “Day” that Paul refers to in 2 Timothy, then we will be vindicated. This is the hope we have because of the doctrine of election.

## Context

Paul begins to develop his main arguments in the letter in this section (1:8-14). The call to embrace suffering (also 2:3 and 4:5) is almost as ubiquitous as Paul’s references to his own suffering (2:9 and 3:11). However, the idea of suffering and impending death is colored by the triumph of the gospel and the “promise of life” held out in it. Paul does not call Timothy to share in suffering apart from the glorious realities of eternal life and the example he himself has set out for Timothy. Certainly in all of Paul’s letters the theology is intertwined with practical living, but perhaps this letter makes it the most personal of all.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read 2 Timothy 1:8-14

“Unashamed”

Timothy

- Tender Heart                      v. 4 tears
- True Heart                         v. 5 sincere faith
- Timid Heart                        v. 7 faint-hearted

Don't be ashamed      1.8

- Identification with Christ
- Association with Paul

I am not ashamed      1.11-12

- Herald                              public presenter
- Apostle                             sent with a commission
- Teacher                            instructor

He guards us...we guard the gospel

Four commands

- Don't be ashamed
- Join me in suffering
- Keep the pattern of sound teaching
- Guard the deposit

## Discuss

- 1) Pastor Don mentioned that we can learn a lot from someone facing death. How does the fact that Paul is dying impact how we understand what he says in this passage?
  
- 2) In what ways are we, as Christians today, tempted to be ashamed of Jesus (or His words; Mark 8:38)?
  
- 3) In what ways are we tempted to be ashamed of other Christians?
  
- 4) Paul not only tells Timothy to not be ashamed and to share in suffering (1:8), he has modeled that in his own life in ministry (1:12). Who is someone that has modeled the Christian life for you? In what ways have they emboldened you to be more faithful to Christ?
  
- 5) How is it that we “guard the gospel?”