

This is My Gospel: I am Not Ashamed October 6th, 2019

(2 Timothy 1:3-14)

³ I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

⁸ So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

¹³ What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

1. Who were the people in your life that brought you to hear about Jesus?

- 2. Paul was in chains for preaching about Jesus. Emperor Nero was rounding up Christians to put them to death. What are the pressures that threaten to silence you in your own context and environment?
- 3. Share a time when you saw an opportunity to share your faith and you missed it? What do you think were the causes that kept your mouth shout?
- 4. What are the teachings of God's Word that you might wish you could change or find yourself feeling embarrassed about? For each one, come up with a way to state that teaching in a positive way to show people the blessing and benefits of it.
- 5. "God has saved us and called us to a holy life... This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus." Put together a sequence for the timing of your salvation which you can confidently say from Scripture.
- 6. Discuss: The gospel is the only thing that overcomes our shame about the foolishness of the gospel.
 In what ways can you use the gospel like a bellows to fan your gifts into flame?
- 7. "This little gospel light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine." Take a moment to think through your circle of friends, coworkers, and relatives who need Jesus. Decide on two people, and one thing you can do to let your gospel light shine to them the next time you see them.