

Ashamed of God

II Timothy 1:1-8

Greetings once again in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is a pleasure for me each week to be able to come to you and speak to you from the Word of God, and I trust that you receive a blessing out of these programs each week. And let me say that I trust that you know Jesus as your Savior. If you do not, may I invite you to do so this very day. It's a matter of trusting in Him, asking Jesus to come into your heart. He is the Savior of the world.

Today, we're going to look in II Timothy chapter 1, verses 1 through 8, but first, let me invite you to look at our website, www.LRWM.org. You can receive a transcript of this program and other programs of "It's a Good Life," by going to that website, www.LRWM.org. You can download a free transcript or you can write to me, Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731, and I'll be glad to send you a transcript of "It's a Good Life."

Now, in the book of II Timothy chapter 1, we read there in verse 1: *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus....* Let me draw your attention first that this life is in Jesus Christ.

Verse 2 says: *To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; ⁴Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; ⁵When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. ⁶Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.*

⁷For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. ⁸Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God.

Now, in these verses, we understand that Paul the apostle was the writer here. He had these words penned down, but God is the author. God has seen fit to give us this in His Word. The writer, Paul the apostle—it was written just before his martyrdom.

Now, in II Timothy in the book itself, in I Peter, in Jude, and II and III John, we see that these books of the Bible have to do with the personal walk of the believer, as well as his testimony in a day when others are in apostasy and legalism. We see that all around us today. We see that there are many people who are ashamed of God.

Now, we can be ashamed of God in many different ways. And I see one way that we can be ashamed of God is in our prayer life. Our prayer life is one way that we stay in touch with the Lord. We speak to God through prayer, in prayer, as we go to Him in prayer and He speaks to us today through His Word. But we can be ashamed of God today in our prayer life. And you might say, "But preacher, I pray at home with my family, and I pray alone. And I say, 'Bless God.'"

Glory to God for that, but what about when you're out somewhere. What about asking the blessing on a simple thing such as... we think it's simple but God provides... about asking the blessing on food. And a lot of times we go into a restaurant and it's crowded and we feel the pressures of the world around us and sometimes we're tempted to do things that are not quite right concerning our prayer life.

And I see types of prayer in these places and one of the types is sneezing prayer—that person who pretends to sneeze and says a quick prayer. And also the dropped napkin prayer. Maybe you've done this, and maybe you've seen people do this. Drop a napkin and on the way down, they're saying a little prayer coming back up. Or the yawning prayer—"Ah, ah, Lord, thank You for this food," as they yawn and they cover their mouth. And what about the something-in-your-eye prayer? Pretending to have something in your eye and you're mumbling something and that something is maybe you're thanking God for your food. But you're being ashamed of God for not coming out and just bowing your head and asking God's prayer, asking God's praise upon your food.

And then you see the non prayer. It reminds me of the preacher pastor who went into a Burger King, and he was asked, "Well, you're not gonna pray over these burgers, are you?"

And immediately he dropped to his knees and he said out loud where everybody could hear him, "We are gathered here today, God, to thank You for these whoppers." And, of course, that got the attention of a lot of people, and there were other preachers who were with him, and I'm sure they had red faces because they were ashamed of God at that point.

You mean preachers can be ashamed of God? You'd better believe it. Some preachers do not stand up for the Word of God. We need to stand for the Word of God. We do not take a back seat to anyone when it comes to proclaiming the Word of God or being a witness for the Lord. We need to stand up for Him in our prayer life.

In II Timothy chapter 1 and verse 7, it says, *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.* Verse 8 says, *Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord....* We should not be

ashamed in our prayer life, whether alone or with someone else.

And we see that we can be ashamed of God today in our witnessing. It reminds me of a story of a little boy who got saved late one night, and every time his mother talked on the telephone, he wanted her to tell other people what had happened to him. And one day his mother was talking on the phone and she heard her daughter screaming. And she looked and the little boy was dragging his sister across the floor, and she was screaming. And the little boy said, "She's old enough. It's time that she got saved."

Well, the Bible tells us that we need to come to the Lord as a little child, and we need to understand that as a young child thinks in his heart and as that young child, this young boy as I've told you about here, how that he had a desire to see his sister come to a saving knowledge of Jesus, we should have that same burning desire within our hearts as a child. We become as a child, someone who has something to be proud of, something to be excited about, and we need to be leading others to the Lord Jesus Christ. We should not be ashamed of God in our witnessing.

We can also be ashamed of God in our everyday life. There was a man by the name of Christmas Evans. He was a great preacher of the Word of God. Now, he was traveling through a town one time and it was getting late. And he asked someone if there was a place to stay there. And the man told him that there was an inn but that he might not enjoy it because there was a dance that was going to be held that night. Well, Christmas Evans stayed, and as he was there, he was asked by a woman to dance. He told her, he said, "I will but I first have to talk to God about it." And he held onto her hand and he prayed. Well, the result was she got saved and then forty-three others got saved, as well.

You see, it makes no difference where we're at. We can take a stand for God. We are in the world,

but we are not of the world. We need to stand up for the Lord and we need to give an account of ourselves in our everyday life. Don't be ashamed of God as some people are in their everyday life.

Well, we can also be ashamed of God in our afflictions. Hebrews chapter 11, verses 24 through 30, talks about the afflictions of the saints of God. And don't be alarmed. Don't think it's odd, but we will suffer afflictions. We will suffer persecution. We will have the wrath at the hands of the world. We will suffer that wrath because we are not of the world. We are different. And we should not be ashamed of God when it comes to our afflictions. Things will happen.

And we see that some are ashamed of God in government affairs. Proverbs 29:2 says, *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.*

And let me ask you a question today. Are we rejoicing today? Or are we mourning with the government that we have? Well, some take out prayer in the schools and they put in dope. We've seen that happen in our world. They will take out the Bible reading and put in sex education. Take out what's right and what's wrong and put in situation ethics. That means the end justifies the means. It doesn't matter if it's right or wrong as long as the thing gets done and it ends up the way they think it needs to be ending up. That's situation ethics. Or the people who think that everyone should have everything alike, that's socialism. Take out the Bible and put in Satan's Bible. Take out God, put in humanism.

And many states in our country today, most of them make it mandatory that teachers take a course in humanism. Take out Godly teachers and put in ungodly teachers. Take out the vision of God and the people will perish, according to Proverbs 29:18. For our good, we'd better take out the Sauls and put in the Davids. We'd better take out the Philistines and put in the Israelites.

We'd better take out the Korahs who stood against Moses and put in the Moseses of today, take out the devil and put in the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We need to quit being ashamed of God. We need to take a stand for Him and not be afraid of what this world or the people of this world can do to us, but concern ourselves with standing up for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, if you've never trusted Jesus as your Savior, you cannot stand up for Him today. The only way that you can stand up for Him is to receive Him as your Savior. This is not a joking matter. This is something that will be for eternity. What you do with Jesus has to do with your eternal destiny. Are you saved? Are you on your way to Heaven? If you've never trusted Jesus as your Savior, the Bible says you are damned. You are on your way to a devil's hell. You don't have to wait to be judged; you're judged already because you have refused Jesus as your Savior.

But....good news! Jesus wants to save you today. He wants to come into your heart. "Lord Jesus, come into my heart. I receive You as my Lord and Savior." If you'll pray that prayer, God says He'll save you, because it's through the shed blood of His Son, Jesus Christ, that He gives everyone the opportunity to be saved. And they can be saved through that shed blood. Why not receive Him right where you're at today. Ask Him to come into your heart.

And as a Christian, are you ashamed of God today? Take a stand for Him. Stand up for what's right. Help our country to get back to where it should be. Pray. Ask God to bring our country about....to do an about-face and to serve Him today as a Godly country.

Well, it's been good being with you today, and may I say, until this same time next week when you'll hear me say it is a good life, may the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.