

2 Timothy 1:8-18 Not Ashamed of the Truth

2 Timothy is a letter that is filled with emotion.

A) Paul is writing from a Dungeon in Rome – awaiting his execution.

B) Writing to Timothy, his beloved Son in the Faith – Passing the Baton of ministry.

C) **16 Specific encouragements** Paul gives to Timothy in this letter.

- 1) First 1:6 Stir up the gift – fan the flame
- 2) 2nd – 1:7 Paul reminds Timothy – not given a spirit of fear Sound mind

D) Today we see encouragement **#3 V.8 Do not be ashamed of the TRUTH.** Read Verse 8-12

Now the “therefore in v.8 connects us to what Paul has been saying to Timothy

- A) Special calling –
His genuine faith –
His gifting from the Lord –
His equipping – not fear but power.....

B) Because of all of that – Timothy, **don't be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me, His prisoner.**

C) Notice – Paul doesn't consider himself to be a Prisoner of Rome – He is in Caesar's dungeon but Nero is not his captor – Christ is!

Timothy was ministering during a time when being a Christian, let alone a pastor was becoming very DANGEROUS.

A) Stronger men than Timothy had wilted when faced with Shame and suffering!

B) The hostility toward Christians & the message of the gospel was growing.

- 1) Christianity was being blamed for much of the problems in the Roman Empire.

C) Why would Paul write to Timothy exhorting him not to be ashamed of the truth or of Paul?

1) Paul knows that deep down everyone wants to be accepted!

D) Think about what pp will do to be accepted

1) Dress growing up! Big Hair – 80's fro Pick my hair – big hair look –

E) Bell bottoms – Old pictures – what was I thinking

1) ACCEPTANCE

When we talk about being a Christian in a secular society – deep down – wrestle acceptance

A) No one enjoys not being liked – no one wants to be labeled as the Party Pooper / Kill Joy

B) Universal yearning to be accepted – to fit in

C) **For Timothy not fitting in cost him his life!**

Now we live at a time in the USA – where it is not yet – DANGEROUS to be a Christian.

A) Hatred is growing – as seen in some of the letters from recent – Virginia Tech Shooting –

B) The Shooter had an open hatred of Christians among others. {**Isolated instances**}

C) But we are nowhere near – where the 1st century Church was at during the time of Paul's writing

- 1) Or even what members of the Church go thru on a daily basis in Communist & Muslim Countries

D) Where an estimated 150,000 Christians are martyred every year.

So we are not yet experiencing the type of Persecution that Timothy was up against

A) But it's going to get more and more uncomfortable to be a Christian especially **if you REALLY – believe the Bible.**

B) That is becoming less and less acceptable!

C) We are living in a Post Modern Culture! What is that?

- 1) Modernism is often pictured as pursuing truth, absolutism, linear thinking, rationalism, and certainty.

D) Those who are Modernist are often depicted as being rigid and prideful – having a desire to control.

The Postmodern thinker. – Says no absolute truth, everything is relative and because culture is always changing – truth changes with it.

A) So the more that Christians take a stand for truth found in God's Word – the more uncomfortable it will become for us in this Post Modern culture!

B) Over the yrs in an effort to be more acceptable in our culture- say [for the purpose of reaching people]

1) There has been a real tendency to water down the truth, redefine truth and even cast doubt on truth

In the seeker movement terms were redefined:

A) Adultery was called an affair/ mistake/ a failure anything but a sin.

B) Let's Not talk about the Blood – the cross – repentance – the motivation was to make the “ Seeker” Unbeliever – feel comfortable

1) In reality the motivation was one of acceptance – The Church wanting to be accepted by the world.

Today there is a movement – really an old movement – regaining new momentum under a new title – Emerging Church.

A) What is the emerging Church? – Well, on the one hand it is hard to define because it is broad –

B) No clear definition and not all those in the movement agree on everything.

1) Accept their view that Church needs to change

C) For some that means setting up Contemplative prayer Stations in the Church

1) Focus on some picture and pray – that is a part of the emerging Church.

D) Or introducing art into the service to stimulate prayer or worship! –

1) Could be a part of the emerging Church in its most innocent forms

But what is really troubling are some of the statements being made by some of their foremost leaders.

A) One of the leading spokesman & thinkers for the Emerging Church is Brian McLaren

B) Former Pastor – now an author and a speaker

1) Always a Dangerous combo – always leery of someone who tells me how to do my Job – he is no longer doing it – maybe didn't do it well in the first place.

C) McLaren is the spokesman He was recently picked by Time Mag as one of the 25 most influential evangelicals in the U.S. today

Brian McLaren sums up his views on orthodoxy, certainty, and the question of whether the truths of Christianity are sound and reliable.

How ironic that I am writing about orthodoxy, which implies to many a final capturing of the truth about God, which is the glory of God.

Sit down here next to me in this little restaurant and ask me if Christianity (my version of it, yours, the Pope's, whoever's) is orthodox, meaning true, and here's my honest answer: a little, but not yet.

He continues

Assuming by Christianity you mean the Christian understanding of the world and God, Christian opinions on soul, text, and culture . . . I'd have to say that we probably have a couple of things right, but a lot of things wrong.

McLaren suggests that clarity itself is of dubious value. He clearly prefers ambiguity, and his books are therefore full of deliberate doublespeak.

A) In his introduction to *A Generous Orthodoxy*, he admits,

“I have gone out of my way to be provocative, mischievous, and unclear, reflecting my belief that clarity is sometimes overrated, and that shock, obscurity, playfulness, and intrigue (carefully articulated) often stimulate more thought than clarity.”[2]

B) A common theme that runs throughout most of McLaren's writings is the idea that “there is great danger in the quest to be right.”[3]

C) He is good with words and speaks in a way – where one might say: Wow that was heavy – but when pressed, not be able to tell you what he said

His approach and message is very appealing to the younger Generation that wants to question everything

A) McLaren calls the Traditional view of Hell and the cross false advertising for God. –

B) He endorses a book by another writer that calls the cross a vile doctrine

1) McLaren refuses to take a stand on the issue of Homosexuality and gay marriage because He can't do so without hurting someone.

McLaren says "I am not sure what we should think about Homosexuality. He called for a five year moratorium on making pronouncements about whether homosexuality is a sin or not. Then in five years, if we have clarity, we'll speak; if not, we'll set another five years for ongoing reflection."

The main motivation in all of this is acceptance!

Dan Kimball's new book, *They Like Jesus But Not the Church* – writing about how the Postmodern individual has been turned off by Church –

but Kimball asserts that is changing now – largely due to the efforts of those like himself & McLaren, leaders in the emergent Church movement.

Kimball says these are "exciting times" we live in "when Jesus is becoming more and more respected in our culture by non-churchgoing people (p. 12).

According to Kimball, it is vitally important that we as Christians be accepted by non-Christians and not thought of as abnormal or strange.

A) But in order to do that, he says we must change the way we live and behave.

Kimball insists (p. 19) that "those who are rejecting faith in Jesus" do so because of their views of Christians and the church. But he makes it clear throughout the book that these distorted views are not the fault of the unbeliever but are the fault of Christians, but not all Christians, just **those fundamentalist ones** - who take the Bible literally, believe that homosexuality is a sin and think certain things are wrong and harmful to society ... and actually speak up about these things.

In the eyes of the Emerging Church being a fundamentalist – one who takes the Bible literally, is a bad thing.

Kimball says "Fundamentalist Christians are now the foreigners in a post-Christian culture, and we have got to wake up to this reality if we haven't" (p. 30).

Isn't that exactly what Jesus said would be the case

A) Christians have always been foreigners in the world, and they have suffered terribly for it.

B) Throughout Christian history, there have been countless murders and atrocities that have been committed against Christians.

Jesus said, "I am not of this world" (John 8:23) and also: "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36).

The apostle Paul said: "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body...." (Philippians 3:20), and Jesus said: "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world." (John 17:14)

John 3:20

20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed

John 15:18-20

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

That is precisely the point that Paul is making here to Timothy –

A) Paul in writing to Timothy is not encouraging him to find a way to fit in – but on the contrary – not be ashamed to be different – be prepared to suffer.

B) 4 Motivations - #1 Suffering is normal

2 Timothy 3:12

"All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

B) Good company!

C) Prophets – Persecuted for Pronouncing truth

1) Paul was about to be executed for preaching the truth

D) Jesus was crucified for Declaring the truth.

E) Timothy, if you are suffering for the sake of the truth – you are in good company.

1) Must be more concerned w/ being right before God than ACCEPTED BY THE WORLD.

#2 Remember your Calling V.9

A) A 2nd means for guarding against being ashamed of Christ is simply to remember our holy calling from our heavenly Father,

B) Who, as Paul has just declared, shares His divine power with His children.

1) The all-powerful God who has saved us has equally sufficient power to keep us.

C) When I am more concerned with being right before God – than I am man –

1) God will supply me with what I need in the moment it is needed

Corey Tin Boom – Money trip

#3 It is a great message: V.9-10

A) Called according to His grace, not our works – but for His purpose

B) Jesus came and abolished death – [spiritual death]

Bring immortality and life.

C) It is an Absolute message: John 14:6 I am the way the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father but by Me!

D) Emerging Church leaders seem ashamed of that fact.

Maclaren – advocates Pluralism

A) Biblical Christianity teaches that there is one road that leads to God – thru Christ

B) Pluralism basically says – there are many roads that lead to God.

C) “When Christians claim that Jesus is the only way – we are being elitist.” –

1) We are cutting others off {Acceptance

D) He says the traditional view of Christianity is too limiting

1) He Promotes that Islam and Christianity Reach Same God through Mystical Experiences

E) Emergent Church leaders quote often from religious philosopher Henry Nouwen

Nouwen who said:

“Today I personally believe that while Jesus came to open the door to God's house, all human beings can walk through that door, whether they know about Jesus or not. Today I see it as my call to help every person claim his or her own way to God.”

(*Sabbatical Journey*, p. 51, 1998 edition).

Contrast those statements with those of Paul here:

11 to which I was appointed a preacher, [proclaimer] an apostle, [one sent out] and a teacher of the Gentiles.

12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed,

A) Paul is not ashamed he exults in his privilege. His soul dances at the thought of his call: “That is why I am suffering as I am” (v. 12a).

“I am suffering because the gospel is so unutterably glorious. I am suffering because it is so powerful. I am suffering because it is the only hope of the lost.”

B) Glorious privilege to preach the gospel – your faith comes alive – the most when you do.

C) I envy you- Secular environment – many opportunities –

1) I spend most of my days with Christians – great people – Miss those opportunities –full time ministry

D) Grocery Store / Hotel – Gang up on an Isle

1) Questions – Invigorating – Blinders lifted

E) Church in Oregon – Coffee shop – come alive

1) Different person.

F) 95% of you are saved – Teach more than preach – Look forward to the day.

1) Glorious message

#4 It is worth it. V. 12

I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

A) Investing in the Kingdom pays eternal dividends

B) Back from the South – Ground is hard –

C) Love to Encourage those guys –

1) God is working – Last time 300 people / this time 600

Last time 30 senior pastors, this time 70

D) Encouraged – Doing what God has called them to

1) Results are slow – but the eternal reward is great

Read Verse 14, 15 – Possibly – thru 18

Closing: We all want to be accepted!

A) Who doesn't want to be liked – we all have a desire for approval

B) That comes from a drive deep down inside of us – a desire to be loved

C) Drives for food / Sex / One of the strongest drives is the drive for acceptance.

1) God created us with this incredible desire for Love

D) God is love! – So He created us to be receptors of that love

1) It is God's love they are craving.

The greatest need is to be accepted by God.

A) They spend their whole lives looking for love in all the wrong places

B) God sent Jesus to show us – How much He loves us

C) Relationship is possible

Mark 8:38

“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

Hebrews 2:11-12

“For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.”

Those who take that step of faith live for heaven

Hebrews 11:16

“Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”