

I. The Charge (1:8)

- A. Do Not Be Ashamed of the Gospel
- B. But Rather Join in Suffering Together for the Gospel
- C. How? By the Power of God (1:7)

II. Why? Because of the Glory of the Gospel (1:9-10; Rom 1:16)

- A. Because He has Saved Us from Sin
- B. Because He has Called Us unto Holiness
 - 1. This Not Because of Works (Eph 2:8-9)
 - 2. But Because of His Purpose and Grace (Titus 3:5; Rom 9:11-12)
 - a. Because of God's Grace Given from Eternity Past (Eph 1:4-5)
 - b. Because of God's Grace Revealed Now in Christ
 - ii. Because Christ has Abolished Death (1 Cor 15:54-55; Heb 2:14-15)
 - iii. Because Christ has Brought Life and Immortality to Light

III. The Example of Paul (1:11-12)

- A. Paul's Calling (1:11)
- B. Paul's Suffering (1:12a; Phil 1:29)
- C. Paul's Confidence (1:12b; 4:8)

“Death itself has been overthrown, and ‘blessed are the death who die in the Lord’ (Rev. 14:13). The proper epitaph to write for a Christian Believer is not a dismal and uncertain petition, ‘R.I.P.’ (*requiescat in pace*, ‘may he rest in peace’), but a joyful and certain affirmation ‘C.A.D.’ (‘Christ abolished death’).” —John Stott

Reflection Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

- 1. Have you ever been ashamed of the gospel? Have you ever been shy to let others know you trust in Christ?
- 2. How does the gospel give you strength to suffer and bear shame for Christ's sake?
- 3. How can you grow to have the unwavering confidence demonstrated by Paul in this passage?