

Blessed Assurance of Salvation pt 2

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“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” 2 Tim.1:12

We return to our studies this morning on Blessed Assurance of Salvation, this is part 2 of our series. We opened up this text last week and saw that the Apostle Paul wrote this epistle from prison. He was put in prison for preaching the gospel and now encourages Timothy those of us who follow Christ that we have a great hope in Christ, yea we have a Blessed Assurance of Salvation.

We submitted 7 points to you last week beginning with the Blessed Assurance in Persecution. Oh my dear brethren we must come to grips with the fact that we might suffer persecution for the sake of Christ and if we do may God will grace us to persevere to the end in our faith towards Him. We set forth these seven things from this text:

- I. Blessed Assurance in Persecution:** (For the which cause I also suffer these things...)
- II. Blessed Assurance in Passion:** (...nevertheless I am not ashamed...)
- III. Blessed Assurance in the Person:** (...for I know whom I have believed...)
- IV. Blessed Assurance in Persuasion:** (...and am persuaded...)
- V. Blessed Assurance in the Power:** (...that he is able ...)
- VI. Blessed Assurance in Preservation:** (...to keep that which I have committed unto him ...) perseverance is meaningless without preservation.
- VII. Blessed Assurance in Preparation:** (...against that day.)

Again this is one of those texts that will give consolation and encouragement to the hearts of God's children. To know without a shadow of doubt that what we have committed unto our God, that is, our never dying soul He is able to keep it until that day.

We want to secondly look at:

II. Blessed Assurance in Passion: (...nevertheless I am not ashamed...)

After Paul shares with us regarding his suffering, he now makes a profound statement regarding his faith in following the Lord Jesus Christ. Even though he was suffering for Christ and for the gospel's sake, he boldly and openly says, “...*nevertheless I am not ashamed* ...” Paul is boldly saying that in spite of his imprisonment he is not one bit ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ or His gospel. The Greek phrase for not ashamed is ‘**ouk epaischunomai**,’ Ouk or not

in the Greek is used here as an absolute negative, no never ashamed. In other words, this is not mere lip service, but a heart cemented and fortified in full assurance and belief that leaves no room for doubt or questioning. This is a heart fully committed to the cause of Christ. This is a heart burning in passion for His Christ; yes Paul had a blessed assurance in passion.

Remember in the Old Testament when the children of Israel were coming out of Egypt and were days from entering the promise land and when God sent some spies to spy out the land. Do you recall that there were 10 that brought an evil report and 2 a good report; Caleb and Joshua were the only ones who believed and trusted that God was able to deliver the land into their hands even to the point of being stoned to death. What made the difference? Turn quickly to Numbers 13:1,2, 17-18, 27-33; Numbers 14:1-24; 32:11 &12; Deut.1:36 and Joshua 14:13 & 14. Because Joshua and Caleb, followed the Lord FULLY! I can assure that they were not, absolutely not ashamed of their God! (Num.32:11 &12, "*Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I swear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me: 12 Save **Caleb** the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and **Joshua** the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the LORD."*)

This is what Paul had, the same conviction, the same commitment, the same character, the same PASSION in following God FULLY! Paul wholly followed His God with such a determination that he was in no wise ASHAMED! Oh to God that we would have the same passion and heart in following our God in this 21st century. There are too many that follow God only with their lips, their hearts are far from Him. The only place these nominal Christians are not ashamed is in church on Sundays, but the rest of the week, they do not care in taking a stand for Christ. In other words they do not follow the LORD FULLY, but only in lip service or for convenience sake! Titus 1:16, "*They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*" When confronted at work or by friends they are ashamed of Christ, they deny Christ in their lifestyle. Their belief in God is but a veneer of self-righteousness, they walk around in fig leaves, no heart, no dedication, no conviction, no PASSION for CHRIST! I'm talking about professing believers, they'll talk about everything under the sun and when opportunity comes to speak or take a stand for Christ they capitulate under pressure and deny Christ by remaining SILENT! Boldness, they have no clue what it means to be bold for Christ, they are bold for so many other things, they'll take a stand for this or that or for trivial things, but when it comes to take a stand for Christ they ARE SILENT! Now, we also need to understand that if your employer forbids you to talk about religious issues, I totally understand. But what about before 8 and after 5 if you hang out with co-workers or when you go out to lunch and you are away from your place of employment. This is what I speaking about, not necessarily when you are supposed to be working.

We can give people space to grow, like Peter, who denied Christ to save his own neck, but afterwards he went out and wept sorely and repented and because he denied Christ 3 times, Christ question his love for Him 3 times saying, *“Peter do you love me?”* No question this prick Peter’s heart, next time we see him, Peter preaches a powerful sermon on the day of Pentecost. Peter would never deny Christ again, Peter would never be ashamed of Christ ever again, as a matter of fact when persecuted in preaching Christ he makes this bold statement in Acts 4:18-20, *“And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”* In Acts 5 they are imprisoned for preaching Christ and as soon as they come out of prison notice what happened next in verses 27-29, *“And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, 28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us. 29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”* What boldness, what passion, they were not ashamed one bit in preaching and teaching about Jesus Christ.

As I said earlier, we’ll give people space because I know that perhaps early in our Christian lives when we were but babes in Christ, perhaps 1 to 2 years in Christ we were not as bold and might have denied Christ in lives because we did not want to be the laughing stock or be ridiculed at work or among our friends. But I remember that when I would deny Christ by my silence I would feel guilty, I would feel bad and go home weep and repent like Peter, because I knew I had denied our Lord and Savior. But at some point I grew, my faith grew and my boldness became firm, now I did not care who would laugh or make fun of me because of my faith. I only share this because I think all of us at some point in our lives have been ashamed or denied Christ in some way. My point is this, if you continue to do this, something is desperately wrong, don’t tell you’ve been a Christian for 5, 10, 15 years or so and you still deny Christ by being silent or by your lifestyle. The problem could be and more than likely is that you are not a Christian. I’m not arguing that you might have a profession, but I doubt if you really possess Him, I don’t know, but I do challenge you to examine yourself to see if you are in the faith.

This was not Paul, for HE WAS NOT ASHAMED OF HIS LORD AND SAVIOR! The apostle Paul had a BLESSED ASSURANCE IN HIS PASSION! Paul had a heart after his Christ, this is Paul’s heart, what about your heart? Paul was not ashamed of His Christ or of the gospel of Christ, Rom.1:17, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”* In 1 Thessalonians 2:2, Paul says, *“But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, **we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.**”* Paul

was not ashamed of His Lord and Savior and he was not ashamed of the GOSPEL OF CHRIST, he was bold in declaring this!

There are 2 verses that smote my heart regarding this issue early in my Christian life. I hope these 2 verses challenge your heart this morning and to help you not be ashamed or to deny the Lord Jesus Christ by being silent even if it will cost you your friends and perhaps your job. My dear brethren we need to be CONQUERORS and not COWARDS! I basically lost all my close friends when I took a stand for Christ, but oh to God, He has blessed me with closer and more faithful friends! This is where you need to have faith and as we saw last week sometimes we might suffer for our faith in Jesus Christ, but we can have a Blessed Assurance in Persecution. Again, it is not easy following Christ, it will cost you. A Christianity that does not cost you anything is not the Christianity of the Bible! Maybe I should phrase it like this, a gospel that does not cost you anything is not the gospel of the Bible; it is another gospel that will plunge your soul to hell. The gospel of the Bible is a LORDSHIP gospel and it will cost you something! Let's get to those 2 verses:

- If I were to ask those of you who profess to be followers of Christ a simple question, how would you answer this. Who is more faithful, our Lord Jesus Christ or those that follow Him? The unanimous answer would of course be the Lord Jesus Christ! Our LORD is always faithful, there is never a time that He is not faithful, 1 Thess.5:24, "**Faithful is he** that calleth you, who also will do it." 2 Thess.3:3, "But **the Lord is faithful**, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil." Revelation 19:11 "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True..." We are the ones who are unfaithful and do you think that our Lord Jesus Christ does not know when we are unfaithful to Him. Turn to Hebrews 2 to look at our first verse. Now, consider this, even though we give Him many reasons to throw the clay away, notice what He says about us in Hebrews 2:11, "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause **he is not ashamed to call them brethren.**" Even in our unfaithfulness, Christ is not ashamed to call us brethren, OH to God that we would not be ashamed of our Lord Jesus Christ who is FAITHFUL to us. 2 Timothy 2:13, "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself." What a blessed verse to help us not be ashamed of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, again, Hebrews 2:11, "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause **he is not ashamed to call them brethren.**" In all of our shortcomings and unfaithfulness, He is not ASHAMED to call us HIS BRETHREN! He is not ashamed of us; let us not be ashamed of HIM!
- The second verse we want to consider that smites the heart as much as the first one; is one of those verses you read, meditate and finally weep as you consider what our Lord and Savior undertook to saves our wretched souls. Turn to Hebrews 12:1 & 2,

*“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, **despising the shame**, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* We are reminded of those who went before us and then of laying aside the sin that can beset us and the importance of running the race before us. We run this race by setting our eyes or fixing our eyes upon our Lord Jesus Christ. Looking unto Jesus who is the author and finisher, the beginner and completer or perfecter of our faith. Who for the joy that was set before Him, was going to bring many sons unto glory, endured the cross, **DISPISING THE SHAME!** To consider that the joy that sustained Him in all of His soul’s trouble, sorrow, agony and shame was that He would save His people from their sins and to glorify His Father. Psalm 69:6 &7, 19 & 20, *“Let not them that wait on thee, O Lord GOD of hosts, **be ashamed for my sake**: let not those that seek thee be confounded for my sake, O God of Israel. 7 Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; **shame hath covered my face**. 19 Thou hast known **my reproach, and my shame**, and my dishonour: mine adversaries are all before thee. 20 Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none.”* Christ went to the cross despising the shame and to think that we who are called His followers would be ashamed of Him, as Paul would say, **GOD FORBID!** God help us to be bold as lions and not be ashamed of our Lord and Savior! He is not ashamed of us and when He went to the cross He despised the shame and willingly, lovingly and obediently gave Himself for us. Oh, how we ought to magnify and praise His Holy name, yes He who endured the humiliation of the cross, despising the shame all because of His great love for us. **YES**, He was determined to ransom our souls, no matter what. Notice what is says in Matthew 26: 38 & 39, *“Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. 39 And **he went a little further**, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”* Aren’t you glad He did not give up, but willingly despised the shame of the cruel cross to bring many sons unto glory! He deserves infinite praise throughout all eternity! Our Lord Jesus Christ did not quit, He never gave up until He had poured out His precious blood unto death for us. Isaiah 50:6, *“I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from **shame** and spitting.”* **YES**, HE endured everything to the end! He endured the wrath of man, the wrath and justice of God, the torments of His body, the agony of His soul, He bore our griefs, He carried our sorrows, He was smitten and afflicted of God and was crucified between 2 thieves that is, numbered with the transgressors as He **POURED** out His soul unto death, all because of His **LOVE** for all those He would save! What more can be difficult to bear than shame, but He despised the shame, counting it as nothing that He might deliver us from sin and save us! As one writer puts

it, "...*The Shame Men Heaped Upon Him! The Shame of Being Made A Curse! The Shame of His Companions in Death! The Shame of His Imputed Guilt—Our Shame! The Shame of His Abandonment! The shame is all gone! He who endured the cross, despising the shame for us, even unto the end, now, is set down at the right hand of the throne of God! His work is finished. He has entered into his rest. His glory is full. His soul is satisfied.*" A.W. Pink says this, "...*far more than He experienced the shame and pain of crucifixion: they tell us that He stood steadfast under it all. He **endured the cross** not sullenly or even stoically, but in the highest and noblest sense of the term—with holy composure of soul. He never wavered or faltered, murmured or complained: "The cup which My Father hath given Me, shall I not drink it" (John 18:11)! And He has left us an example that we should "follow His steps."* We can now better understand what Paul means as he writes to Timothy, "*For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*" 2 Tim.1:12

These 2 verses in Hebrews 2 and 12 caused me to realize that I should never, no never be ashamed of my Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord Jesus Christ gives a fearful and sobering warning to those who are professors of Christ and are ashamed of Him. Turn to Luke 9:18-26. (Verse 23 -26, "*And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. 24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. 25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? 26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.*" There is no misunderstanding what Jesus Christ is saying here, it is very clear and definite what is expressed here. He gets right to the issue at hand, what a fearful and sobering warning!

Now, we only have one life to live and for whom will we live it, ourselves or Christ? And what if you were to gain the whole world, then what? This is for all ranks and all classes of people and for every age. Another writer says, "*We learn, for one thing, **the absolute necessity of daily self-denial**. We ought every day to crucify the flesh, to overcome the world, and to resist the devil. We ought to keep under our bodies, and bring them into subjection. We ought to be on our guard, like soldiers in an enemy's country. We ought to fight a daily battle, and war a daily warfare. The command of our Master is clear and plain--"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."* He continues, "*Now what do we know of all this? Surely this is a question which ought to be asked. A little formal church-going, and a decent attendance at a place of worship, can never be the Christianity of which Christ speaks in this place. Where is our self-denial? Where is our daily carrying of the cross? Where is our following of Christ? Without a (Christianity) religion of this kind we shall never be saved. A crucified Savior will never be content to have a self-pleasing, self-indulging, worldly-minded people. No self-denial--no real grace! No cross--no crown! Whoever will save his life," says the Lord Jesus, "shall lose it; but whoever will lose his life for My sake shall save it."* This is the whole essence of salvation, living for Jesus Christ and Him alone! We will pick up here next week, look at 2 Cor.5:15.

Let's Pray