

Freed From Fear

1. We Are Welcomed into Paul's Inner Council (13-16).

2. He Served as an Example in Thought, Word, and Deed.

3. Christ Provides the Faith in Him to Not Shrink Back.

CONCLUSION: This passage tells us more than just Paul's itinerary. It invites us into his fears and plans submitted to the lordship of Christ. This is what a life consecrated to God looks like. The Holy Spirit provides this look inside so that we can be honest with ourselves and one another about our own fears and plans. As we face these struggles together may we encourage one another to trust Christ with all of it and so not shrink back from the work Lord Jesus has called us to do!

Second Timothy 1:8-14

⁸Therefore do *not* be **ashamed** of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, *but share* in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹ for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, ¹² which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. ¹³ Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

Joshua 1:1-9

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, ²“Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. ⁵ No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Revelation 1:4b-7

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

God's Word calls us out from the fear of man to the right and good fear of the Lord. Understanding God as He truly is freed Paul from fearful slavery to those threatening his life. Secure in Christ, we too can be free from this bondage.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 20:13-27; Second Timothy 1:8-14; Joshua 1:1-9; Revelation 1:4b-7**. DISCUSS, How does God use godly saints who have gone before us to model faith in Christ? Is it just their actions that we need to follow? PRAY "Lord Jesus, forgive us for not fearing You as we should. Teach us to worship, revere, and fear You as we should. There is no one in all the earth like You. Give us a holy fear of Your majesty that would silence all other fears within us."

Sunday Evening

Young Adult Bible Study this evening at 6pm in the church library.

Monday

READ **Acts 20:13-27; Psalm 111:1-10; Proverbs 1:1-7; 9:10**. DISCUSS, What does the Bible mean by "fear of the Lord"? How does it match the world's ideas? How does it differ? How are we supposed to fear Christ? How does that free us from fearing others? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 31:6-8**. PRAY "Lord, forgive us for the ways we try to domesticate You. Restore a good and right fear of You in our hearts and minds. Make us fearless of those around us."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 20:13-27; Second Timothy 1:8-9; Joshua 1:1-9**. DISCUSS: How are being ashamed and shrinking back similar? Why? How does our fear of man lead us to shrink back from the whole counsel of God? How does proper fear of God embolden us to suffer hardship? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 31:6-8**. PRAY "Lord, forgive us for ways we fear the wrong things. Enable us to see clearly and respond with faith in King Jesus."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 20:13-27; Second Timothy 1:8-12; Psalm 107:23-32.** DISCUSS, How does the light of the gospel reveal that death has been abolished? What confidence does it provide us? Why does Paul speak not about *what* he has believed, but *whom* he has believed? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 31:6-8.** PRAY “Lord teach us to *trust in You* more than in our eyes.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 20:13-27; Joshua 1:1-9; Revelation 1:4b-7.** DISCUSS, How can we to be strong and courageous? How are you doing this? Who do you know that is doing this in a way that is good to emulate? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 31:6-8.** PRAY “Jesus, embolden us and renew our trust in You for new life.”

Friday

READ **Acts 20:13-27; Second Timothy 1:8-14; Joshua 1:1-9; Revelation 1:4b-7.** DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 31:6-8.** PRAY “We magnify Your name, Jesus, for You alone reign supreme. Thank You for loving us and building Your Church through us.”

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both in-person & live-stream services are available.* READ **Acts 20:1-38.** Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *in-person or live-stream service.* Ask Jesus to help us encourage one another.

Deuteronomy 31:6-8

“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.” Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”