

apptoteach.org

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

2 Timothy 1:8-12
Lesson #24
Despise the Shame
10/08/2023

1

**A healthy Christian
faith should be:** 

- ✓ Intellectually **convincing**.
- ✓ Spiritually **satisfying**.
- ✓ Morally **transforming**.
- ✓ Socially **connecting**.
- ✓ Culturally **inspiring**.

2

**The Gospel message
(Word and Way of the Cross)
is going to receive a mixed response.**

1 Corinthians 1:


“18 For the **word of the cross** is to those who are perishing foolishness,. . . 22 For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a **stumbling block**, and to Gentiles **foolishness**,”

**How should we embrace, present, & defend
the Christian faith in a world where we are
laughed at as fools?**

3


“stumbling block and foolishness”

- **Jesus was a loser** - failed to be a functional messiah, rejected by Jewish authorities, friend of sinners, his resurrection was a wishful fairy tale.
- **Blind faith** - contrary to hard evidence, common logic, and personal experience, selective testimonials.
- **A crazy god** - who is not there, does not care, and is not fair as he demands that his followers love their enemies while “he” sends his to eternal hellfire for “his glory”.
 - **Bibliolatry** - proof texts, inconsistency, errors.
 - **Empty promises** - unanswered prayers, no return of messiah, divided church.
 - **Foolish ethics** - counter productive social & personal ethics.
 - **Church hypocrisy** - corrupt leaders, bloody crusades & “reformation”, social insensitivity.



4

**The temptation is to sugar coat,
white wash, water down,
shut up, give up,
or get out.**



5

**Shame is
God’s tool before salvation**

**SAND
SATAN’S
TOOL
AFTER.**



6

Jesus' testimony (example & challenge)

Luke 9:23

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, **let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.**"

Hebrews 12

"2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, **who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame**, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 **For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.**"

Heb.11:26, 13:13, 1 Cor.1:18,23, Rom.8:16-25

7

Paul's testimony (example & challenge)

Romans 1

"16 For **I am not ashamed of the gospel**, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed . . ."

+ *The Cross* **+**
is shameful to the world,
but salvation to the called of God.

8

Paul's testimony (example & challenge)

2 Timothy 1

"8 Therefore **do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord**, or of me **His prisoner**; but **join with me in suffering for the gospel** according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling,

not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which **was granted us in Christ Jesus** from all eternity, 10 but now has been revealed by 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 an apostle and a teacher. 12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not **ashamed**; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day."

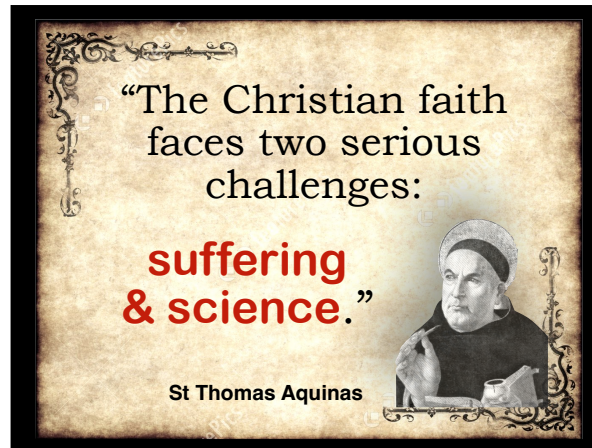
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Interpretive paraphrase

2 Timothy 1:8-12

"Don't be ashamed of Jesus or me for our suffering in this world. This was Jesus' calling, and ours also as we are one with him. It was through Jesus' shame on the cross that we are saved and given eternal life. Our hope and security are "in Christ" not this world. This is our message to the world so don't despise it, but confirm and defend it, knowing that God's promise will make our suffering worth it in the end."

10



11

Romans 8

"16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.** 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

12

2 Timothy 1

“8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but **join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God**, 9 who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling,

Clarification of “the power of God”

- **It is usually NOT the changing of our circumstances.**

We too often ONLY want deliverance FROM not peace and growth through.

- **It is more often the power to witness through sharing Christ’s suffering.**

13

Clarification of “the power of God”

Examples

- **Joseph’s captivity** (Gen.50:20) - It was evil but God used it for good.
- **Paul’s thorn in the flesh** (2 Cor.12:7-10) - It was from Satan but God used it for good.
- **The Cross of Christ** - It was unjust but God used it for good.
- **Our suffering in this life** (2 Cor.1:1-11) - It enables us to comfort others who suffer.
- **Sharing Christ’s shame** (Phil.3:10) - It connects us to Christ.

14

Take home lessons

1. There is much more attention given to **living the Christian life** than becoming a Christian, and to **responding to suffering** than removing it.
2. The Lordship of Christ and what it means to be “in Christ” are realized through **instruction, intercession, & illustration.**
3. Our **calling, destiny, and power** are a key to our worship, and walk in the Way of the Cross.
4. Suffering is never to shame the believer, but **it is always an opportunity** for wisdom, worship and witness.

15

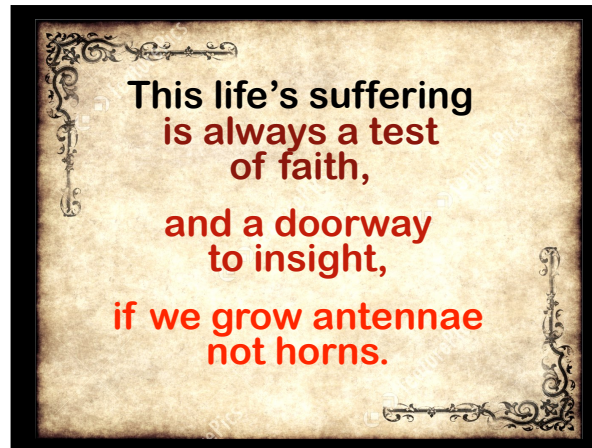
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**- but to those who believe,
it is the power and
wisdom of God.**

16



17

A suggested prayer for all who seek
to walk the way of the cross.

I WANT
*you to change my circumstance,
but even more so to help me see beyond
it and **REFORM MY RESPONSE** to it.”*

Help me KNOW
your love, peace, and power through this.

I THANK YOU
*for the gift and power of your Spirit
within me, enabling me to see beyond
and walk through this trial.”*

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