

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Timothy 1:8**.
- B. The apostle Paul was fully persuaded that the gospel would save his soul on the final day. He told young Timothy not be ashamed.
- C. Satan would rather have us ashamed of the gospel so that we might not be effective in living and evangelizing.

I. SIX "REASONS" GIVEN AS TO WHY WE ARE ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL.

- A. First, because **it is not popular**. Over 90%, maybe as much as 95% of the world is non-Xian:
 - 1. Today in the world more people follow Mohammed than X.
 - 2. Today more people follow Buddha than X.
 - 3. In this country, there are more people who are 'unchurched,' than 'churched.'
- B. Second, because **it's moral code seems "old-fashioned."**
 - 1. Other world religions permit multiple marriages, lies, and drunkenness.
 - 2. The "new morality" is an attack on Bible truth.
 - 3. People today are self-centered instead of others-centered.
- C. Third, because **we feel it lacks sensory appeal** (does not appeal to tastes touch, hearing, smelling, and seeing).
 - 1. "Seeing is believing" is not always true.
 - 2. The body is satisfied through these senses.
 - 3. Without some satisfaction of these senses the body will die.
- D. Fourth, because **God works today by providence and not by miracle**.
 - 1. Many "miracle-workers" are attracting people by their signs of "God's power."
 - 2. These "miracles" are offered as proof of the gospel's power.
- E. Fifth, because **we see others' "successes" and begin to wonder who is right**.
 - 1. Success is measured by numerical growth.
 - 2. Success is measured in amounts of money raised.
 - 3. Various other good things accomplished.
- F. And sixth, because **we are so different from others** who wear the name, "Christian."
 - 1. We alone, use non--instrumental music.
 - 2. Partake of the Lord's Supper on every Lord's Day.
 - 3. Believe that baptism is by immersion only, and is essential to salvation.
 - 4. We don't generally believe in the rapture, the anti-Christ, and the millennium.

II. OUR RESPONSE TO THESE "REASONS."

- A. First, "because the gospel is not popular." Who said it is not popular?
 - 1. The Bible is the biggest seller of all time.
 - 2. No one religion, based on one message, has endured as long as the gospel.
 - 3. More books have been written about the gospel than any other subject alone.
 - 4. The gospel has affected more lives throughout the years than any other religion.
- B. Second, "because it's moral code is old-fashioned." It is the only one that works.
 - 1. Nations crumble from within, without a high moral code.
EXAMPLE: Rome, Israel under Solomon then divided (Prov. 14:34).
Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people.
 - 2. God's moral code can condemn that which civil law cannot.
EXAMPLE: Civil law convict murderers, but not murder in the heart (Mt. 5:21-22).
"You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever

commits murder shall be liable to the court.' **22** But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery hell.

3. Truly successful marriages, families, and societies are based on the gospel's code of morals and ethics.
- C. Third, "because the gospel lacks sensory appeal." To this charge we plead guilty. The gospel is interested in the soul, more so than the body.
 1. We do not (should not) come to worship to be entertained.
 2. Care of the body is important but the soul more important (Mt. 10:28).
Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
- D. Fourth, "because God works by providence (today) and not miracle." Again we plead guilty, but providence is the greater blessing. Which is greater or bigger--providence or miracle?
 1. One man blind who can see or the total universe spinning in perfect time and motion to sustain life?
 2. One man able to speak in a tongue or God through the earth able to feed 6 billion souls every day?
 3. One man raised from the dead or none of God's elect ever having to beg for bread (Psa. 37:25; Mt. 6:33)?
(Psa 37:25) I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his descendants begging bread.
(Mt 6:33) But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
 4. 1000 people healed of cancer or one sinful soul obeys Christ for eternal life (see Mt. 16:26)?
- E. Fifth, "because of others 'successes' and not our own." Look at the success record of God:
 1. God versus the wicked people of Noah's day, WHO WON?
 2. God versus Pharaoh (with Moses), WHO WON?
 3. God versus the prophets of Baal (with Elijah), WHO WON?
 4. God versus Satan at the cross of Christ, WHO WON?...now with that kind of track record let us ask this question:
 5. God's church and gospel versus false doctrine and other world religions? WHO DO YOU THINK WILL WIN? To be on God's side is to have success.
- F. Sixth, "because we are so different than others who wear the name, Christian." I hope we are different:
 1. We are not to be of the world, but of Christ (Rom. 12:1-2).
Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
 2. When we do things God's way, everything else will be different.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We should never be ashamed of the gospel of Christ.
- B. There is a kind of Christian pride that is not sinful.
- C. Never let us lose heart and become ashamed of the gospel (2Cor. 4:1-13).
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.