

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Timothy 1:7-12.**
- B. This passage could be called “famous.” Songs have been written about it (2Tim. 1:12).
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.
- C. Most of us would term Paul as having great confidence in X and not in himself.
- D. Paul possesses 6 things that every Xian should have in their life.

I. “**I SUFFER...**”

- A. Paul was living a godly life, therefore, because of his commitment as a preacher, teacher, and apostle he suffered (2Tim. 3:12).
And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
- B. But Paul knew suffering help to show the grace of God working in his life (2Cor. 12:9-10).
And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.
- C. And Paul did suffer in his ministry (2Cor. 11:23-28).
Are they servants of Christ? (I speak as if insane) I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure upon me of concern for all the churches.
- D. Remember that suffering is a “normal” part of Xian living.

II. “**I AM NOT ASHAMED...**”

- A. Paul was bold, and asked for prayers for continued boldness in preaching (Eph. 6:19).
...and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,
- B. Paul said he was not ashamed of the gospel (Rom. 1:16-17).
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. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “**BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.**”
- C. Paul had great confidence in God and X (Rom. 8:31-39).
What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, “**FOR THY SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.**” But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- D. One of the most humbling and “scary” passages of scripture is how those who are ashamed and cowardly will be eternally lost (Rev. 22:8).
“But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

III. "I KNOW..."

- A. Jesus will come in judgmental destruction of them who do not know Him (2Th. 1:7-8).
...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
- B. John said that we can know that we are saved (1Jn. 5:13).
These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.
- C. As long as one practices good after becoming a Xian he can know he is saved (1Jn. 1:6-7).
If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

IV. "I BELIEVE..."

- A. We must not believe every spirit, but only those of God (1Jo. 4:1).
Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
- B. Paul's belief was so great, that it caused him to speak (2Cor. 4:13-14).
But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe, therefore also we speak; knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.
- C. Those who believe on Jesus (obey Him) will not be disappointed (1Pet. 2:6; Jn. 3:36).
(1Pet. 2:6) For this is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."
(Jn. 3:36) "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."
- D. Of course, without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6).
And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

V. "I AM CONVINCED..."

- A. There was no doubt in Paul's mind of X and the trustworthiness of His word.
- B. Paul wanted to know nothing else, but Jesus and Him crucified (1Cor. 2:1-5).
And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.
- C. Paul was so convinced, if he was wrong he was of all men most to be pitied (1Cor. 15:16-19).
For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

VI. "I HAVE ENTRUSTED..."

- A. Paul had given his life to Jesus. Trusting Him to take of him in this life and beyond death (Gal. 2:20).
"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.
- B. Paul had entrusted the teachings of Jesus to lead men's lives. Paul gave them to others that they might teach others also (2Tim. 2:2).
And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.
- C. Paul was ready to die, knowing and trusting the promises of X to give him a crown of life (2Tim. 4:6-8).
For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

A. Once again, 2Tim. 1:12.

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.

B. Now, do we as Xians have these qualities in our life? Can we make the same claims?

C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.