

Not Ashamed

8-7-22

2 Timothy 1:12 (ESV)

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.**

Paul in his final letter before his death is making his final declaration not only to Timothy but also to all believers including us at BCC. Paul's conviction is to be an example to all those who put their trust in Christ. Like Paul, we are not ashamed, because we know whom we have believed. Not "what" we believe but "whom" we have believed, Jesus! We don't have a dead theology; we have a personal experience with the living Christ that comes with power. Paul also says in Romans:

Romans 1:16 (ESV) NO/OH

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

We are not ashamed because we are convinced that God is able! We are convinced that whatever is facing us, "God is able!" In context here, the Scripture says, "God is able to guard what is entrusted to us." Literal this says, "God is able to guard the deposit to us." The noun deposit is used in verse 14, and 1 Timothy 6:20, **where in both cases it describes the deposit committed to Timothy for safe keeping.**

1 Timothy 6:20 (ESV) NO/OH

Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you.

2 Timothy 1:12 focuses attention on God's ability to guard this deposit that HE has entrusted to us. This deposit is in reference is to our assignment, commission, and doctrine which Christ entrusted to us. **As in the parable of the talents in Matthew 25, this deposit is likened to the talents which were committed to the different servants who later had to give an account of their stewardship when their master returned. To be good stewards of this deposit from God, we follow the pattern of the sound words we have heard, the truth of Christ.**

2 Timothy 1:13 (ESV)

Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

A paraphrase: "Let what you have learned from me serve as your pattern for sound teaching but only in faith and love." The word "Pattern" only occurs here and in 1 Timothy 1:16 where it is translated "example." This word means an outline sketch such as an architect might make before getting down to the detailed plans of a building. **This foundational pattern, sketch, outline of sound words is to be guarded. The importance of this pattern cannot be over-emphasized. For us this pattern, sketch, starting point, is always the sound words of Scripture. God leaves room and even encourages preachers and teachers to make Spirit led applications based on these foundational sound words of Scripture.**

My preaching may use various personal examples, but these examples must never contradict the sound words of Scripture. For BCC we stand on the Scriptures, but we also have a Doctrinal Statement which we believe is an irreducible minimum of sound words necessary to have a solid foundation and powerful dynamic walk with God. **For these sound words to be effective, we must share them in faith and love.** Over the years if people would have had their conviction to sound words tempered by *faith and love* the bitterness of many of church disputes would have been prevented. An intimate union with Christ is necessary before faith and love are possible.

2 Timothy 1:14 (ESV)

By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

Without the Holy Spirit we have nothing! By the power of the Holy Spirit, we stand on sound words tempered by *faith and love*, guarding the good deposit, the good assignment God gave us. We guard this deposit that had been entrusted to us until Jesus returns.

Paul states in Romans 8:9–11 that the Holy Spirit dwells in every Christian, but a special anointing, deposit is given to those set apart for specific tasks. This is also closely akin to the spiritual gifts given in 1 Corinthians.

Whatever our deposit, anointing, spiritual gift, assignment, we have been entrusted with sound doctrine.

WE ARE NOT ASHAMED, FOR WE KNOW WHOM WE HAVE BELIEVED!

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

HE made HIM (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in HIM (Jesus) we might become the righteousness of God.