

Just Checking #137 JUNE 2013

2 Tim 1:7-12

NO FEAR, NO SHAME, NO DOUBT

FAITH IS KNOWING THE WHAT, THE WHO, and THE WHEN

THE WHAT The Gospel

NO FEAR IN FAITH - CONFIDENCE IN THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

2Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Paul has complete confidence in the gospel, the Savior, and the faithfulness of God to the purpose and promise He made in the gospel resident in the Savior.

We ourselves often experience fear. Fear is the emotion that comes from the realization that something beyond our power to control threatens us or those we love with harm and death. Such fear cannot arise from the Spirit of God since God Himself has promised that we are secure eternally in the life and immortality brought to us in Christ.

Numerous scriptures relate such unconquerable confidence in the God who saves us.

Ps 56:4 ... In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?

Ps 118:6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

Heb 13:6 So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

1Jo 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

Psalms 46:1-2 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

NO SHAME IN THE GOSPEL - CONFIDENCE IN THE GRACE OF GOD

2 Timothy 1:8-11 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, 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 given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

In another one of Paul's delightful run on sentences in which he cannot break off the flow of words springing from a heart overflowing with forgiveness, we see his confidence in the grace of God. Paul's old life of legalism and arrogance was slain by grace. And the same grace that killed his self-confidence gave birth to his absolute grace-confidence in the gospel. Paul makes it clear he knows "what he

believes....”, that is, the gospel of grace found in Christ’s life giving, death destroying, and immortality achieving work on the cross. God’s purpose before time began has been carried out in history and now proclaimed to the world. It is historically real, eternally valid, immediately offered, and unendingly effective.

THE WHO The Christ

NO DOUBT IN CHRIST - CONFIDENCE IN THE SON OF GOD

2 Timothy 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

The cost of confidence in the gospel: suffering.

Paul makes it clear that his joy-filled confidence was not without personal cost and opposition. If Paul would have altered the gospel’s demands for repentance, softened the knife edge its exclusivity, broadened the effect to include everyone regardless of belief, and left room for alternate theories, he could have escaped suffering. But such was the power of the one true gospel that Paul gladly suffered for it without excuse, without regret, and without shame.

The cause of confidence in the gospel: whom.

Paul not only knew “what” he believed, that is, the facts of the gospel just stated. He also knew “The Person” in whom those facts centered: Jesus Christ. Saving faith is not simply accepting a list of facts, but an “entrusting of the soul to the Person of Christ for forgiveness and eternal life.”

So he says he has...

A PERSONAL SAVIOR	<i>“for I know whom...”</i>
A PERSONAL FAITH	<i>“I have believed...”</i>
A PERSONAL CONFIDENCE	<i>“and am persuaded that He is able to keep ...”</i>
A PERSONAL COMMITMENT	<i>“what I have committed to Him ...”</i>
A PERSONAL FUTURE	<i>“until that Day.”</i>

THE WHEN “That day”

Paul lived with leaving in view! He was always reminding his hearers that life is to be lived with “that day” in view. “That day” when we see Christ and are transformed by the glorifying vision. “That day” when all suffering is forever over. “That day” when the One we haven’t seen, the One we long to see, is the One every eye will see! Martin Luther said: “I have but two days on my calendar, today and that day.” And when “that day” is in view, it makes us live “today” in such a way that we can also say.... “I am not afraid, I am not ashamed, I know, I am ready!”

As I write these lines, it was two hours ago that I stood at the bedside of a dear sister in Christ, 93 years old, who is in her last hours. With a glorious peace, a sweet smile and shining eyes I heard her say,

“I’m ready to be with the Lord.” Amen. May we all be as ready, as confident, as unashamed, as fearless, and as eager as she is.

SELF CHECK:

- 1) Are you experiencing fear? Of what? Why? What does scripture require you to do in this case?
- 2) Are you ready for “that day?” Are you living today with that day in view?

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

There are nearly 300 “fear not” type commands in the Bible, depending on the translation. (Fear not, be not afraid, do not be afraid” , and related commands such as “be strong... be courageous... be confident...” Look up a few dozen in your concordance and note the reason or foundation of a fearless faith. Real and lasting and genuine and proper confidence is based on the person and work and power and sufficiency and faithfulness of Christ Jesus.

“O

Amen.”

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.

Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Ron & Val

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable,
changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible
with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows,
spending our time on eternity,
owning nothing yet possessing everything
that matters and lasts.
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.
Welcome to THE JOURNEY