

Don't Be Ashamed

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Nov 21, 2017

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Brethren as we live in this world there are so many things that we are ashamed of but there is one this that God is telling us not to be ashamed of and that is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. By that Gospel we were born again because God raised Him from the dead, that is what we teach and preach; it's His death, burial, and resurrection.

Many people even those that call themselves "Christians" but are not, you can find that many of these become reluctant or rather ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. They are ashamed to let others know that they believe in God and that they are followers of Christ. They are ashamed of the church and are ashamed to proclaim that it is the only church that was bought and cleansed by the blood of our Lord. The church of Christ, those that worship according to how our Lord commanded. They are reluctant to speak out against things that are wrong and to stand up for the truth.

Why do people remain quiet? Because they love the world and want to be with the majority in the secular world as well as in the religious world. They want to be popular and accepted. They want people in the world to praise them whether they are doing good or wrong. They do not want to be considered narrow minded and associated with the minority. Rather than speak out for Christ, they quietly try to mingle with their friends and neighbors, with their family members who are not Christians, so that no one will have hard feelings toward them. Their attitude is opposite that of early Christians who were willing to die rather than deny their Lord. Early Christians rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. ***"And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."*** (Acts 5:41-42). We must declare His name by preaching and teaching the souls that are lost in the nightmare of this horrible world.

We follow the teaching and examples that our Lord left for us through the apostle and His Word. Apostle Paul said, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith."* (Rom. 1:16-17). *"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."* (Mark 8: 38). It began with the Jews and later we received it

with full knowledge of understanding. Apostle Paul quotes what Jesus said Matt. 21:42, “As it is written, behold I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offence and whosoever believes on him shall not be shamed.” (Rom. 9:33). Anyone who believes on Him will not be ashamed of His gospel and that is what we preach. He set the foundation of it and we also must pass through it by telling others the real purpose. He said it in a great commission Mark 16:15-16, we must preach and teach it so that they believe and be saved but if we are ashamed to tell them of their sins and repent they are lost. Paul declared, “According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.” (Phil.1:20). Young Timothy was told the same and was warned not to be ashamed of the gospel. “Be not therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God. Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our own works but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For the which cause 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 that which I have committed unto him against that day.” (2 Tim. 1:8-12). We must study and show ourselves approved to God as it was to Timothy. (2 Tim. 2:15). **“For it became him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren. Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.”** (Heb. 2:10-12). The cause of the gospel.

Brethren, we have all what we need that pertaining to our life and salvation. Therefore we must tell it to all those that have not known it before the time come of which there will be no time to do that when the time comes; preparation is necessary and is needed. Our Father is not ashamed when we call him our God. “But now they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.” (Heb. 11:16). “Having a good conscience; that whereas they speak evil of you, as evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be

so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evildoing. For Christ hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.” (1 Pet. 3:16-18). In the church or outside there might be those that talks evil against you even if you are doing the right thing but they are ashamed because you are doing it with a right purpose. “*But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*” (1 Pet. 4:15-16).

“*Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*” (Matt. 10:32-33). If we are ashamed we cannot confess Christ before people. And this is what we did before going into the water of baptism.

My friend and a brother, where do you stand before the Lord? Do you believe in Him or reject Him? (Heb. 11:6; John 14:1). You should not be ashamed (Mark 8:38).

Will you believe and be baptized to be saved if you have not done so (Mark 16:16), or have you accepted the teachings of men? Are you a member of the Lord’s church (Matt. 16:18), and by this I mean those that worship according to our Lord’s command. Or do you belong to a denominational church that began with man? Do you wear the name of Christ (Acts 4:12), or do you wear a man made name?

Remember that in the last day we will be judged by the word of the Lord itself (John 12:48). Please don’t reject Christ and His will. Do not be ashamed of Him. Believe in Him, obey Him, and live for Him, and one day He will acknowledge you as His own and give you an eternal home in heaven.

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