

Being Ashamed

Introduction

A. The Christian life is based on a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the eternal Son of God and through His death and Resurrection He has brought those of us who believe on Him to a place of profound spiritual value.

B. In spite of all this we often find ourselves confused, frustrated, and even occasionally ashamed.

I. The Promise Regarding Shame, I Peter 2:6 (Is. 28:16; Romans 9:33; 10:11)

Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious, and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded (ashamed).

Observation: This verse reminds us of God's eternal plan to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. He is worthy of all glory. The promise to all who will believe on Him is that they will not be ashamed or put to shame regarding Him.

II. The Warning Regarding Shame, Mark 8:38.

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.

Observation: This is a very serious warning. There is nothing in the Lord Jesus or His Word that would cause us to be ashamed. However, if we are, because of false pride, or giving the approval of men higher priority than the approval of God - then we are told that He will be ashamed of us. This will happen when we stand before Him in judgment (Rom. 14:11,12; II Cor. 5:10).

III. The Affirmation Regarding Shame, Romans 1:16; II Timothy 1:12.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, to the Jew first, and also, to the Greek.

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.

Observation: Here the Apostle Paul states His confidence in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is just the opposite of doubt and unbelief. He knew and had experienced the great truth that the Lord Jesus could be trusted and the promises of God have not been given to us to mock us. We must learn how to make and then live this same affirmation.

IV. The Provision Regarding Shame, Romans 5:5, I John 2:28.

And hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts lay the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

And now, little children, abide in Him, that, when He shall appear we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Observation: In His work for us the Lord Jesus has made it possible for us to so live for Him that we will not be ashamed in our daily life nor be ashamed of our life when we stand before Him when He comes for us. This grows out of "abiding, in Him", i.e., walking in fellowship with Him. This is really the key - our maintaining of fellowship.

V. The Exhortation Regarding Shame, II Timothy 1:8; 2:15.

Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but be thou partaker of the afflictions of tHb gcqpel according to the power of God.

Study to shew theyselves approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

Observation: We need such exhortations as these because of our inadequate lists of priorities. Too often we live a selfish life and our values reflect our sinful condition more than our regeneration. We must work on this matter of not being ashamed and realize that we have no reason - in Christ - for shame.

VI. The Reminder Regarding Shame, Romans 6:21.

What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

Observation: It is important that we look back into our past and recognize the real source of shame - our sin and failure. We have all lived, in some area of life, a very unfruitful kind of life. Of such a life we need to be ashamed. Perhaps such a backward look will help us to be more free from sin in the present.

VII. The Commendation Regarding Shame, II Timothy, 1:16; Hebrews 2:11; 11:16.

The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus, for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain.

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.

But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly, wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He hath prepared for them a city.

Observation: These verses comfort us. Onesiphorus is our example. What a help he must have been to the apostle when he was in prison. We may not allow our shame to hinder us in His service. It is amazing that God is not ashamed of us as persons - because of salvation - and may not be ashamed of our life - if we are honest in living for him.