

# “SUFFERING FOR THE GOSPEL”

## II TIMOTHY 1:8-10

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

### INTRODUCTION

We need to stir the flames of our passion for God as we exercise our spiritual gift(s) in the cause of Christ (6). We must not be timid or fearful in serving God, for “God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline—a sound mind” (v. 7).

Faithful and bold service for Christ might result in suffering.  
Most of us know little if anything about suffering for the cause of Christ.

It is easy to speak our minds when no one opposes, or there are no consequences. Now, in America, with the passing of several liberal agenda items believers and churches will be forced to take a stand and bear the consequences. Are you ready and willing?

Don't be ashamed of the Lord and His gospel, nor of His suffering servants.

### YOU MUST SHARE THE SUFFERING OF CHRIST AND PAUL AND OTHER BELIEVERS.

- I. THE COMMANDS GIVEN (8)
  - A. Don't be Ashamed
    1. Of the testimony of the Lord/the gospel (Rom. 1:16)
    2. Of Paul/other suffering believers
      - Notice that Paul is **His** prisoner—not Nero's etc.
      - Paul fulfills God's plan even in prison.
  - B. Join with Christ and Paul in suffering for the gospel.
- II. THE ABILITY TO KEEP THE COMMANDS (8b) [“According to the power of God”]
- III. THE REASON FOR KEEPING THE COMMANDS (9)
  - A. God has saved us.
  - B. God has called us.
    1. With a holy calling—to a life of holiness, because He himself is holy.
    2. Not on our merit—no goodness of ours or good works that we have done.
- IV. THE REASON FOR OUR SUFFERING (9b)
  - A. God's Purpose
  - B. God's Grace
    1. Given to us
    2. In Christ Jesus
    3. From before time of the ages—from all eternity

Do you think that your suffering for Christ catches God by surprise?

  - C. The revelation of God's Purpose and Grace (10)
    1. In the appearing of Christ Jesus

- Here the appearing is His First Coming, and all that follows—elsewhere of His Second Coming.
  - He appeared to be our Savior.
2. The accomplishment of Christ
- a. Abolished Death—made ineffective and powerless.
    - Eternal death no longer exists for the believer.
    - Spiritual death is vanquished more and more in this life, & completely at the departure of the soul into His presence.
    - Physical death has been robbed of its curse and has been turned into gain—death no longer has a “sting” for the believer (I Cor. 15:26, 42-44; 54-57).
  - b. Brought to light life and immortality.
    - Non-perishable life, life lasting forever.
    - Through the Gospel—all that Christ has done, and then the preaching of it.
    - First, through His own resurrection; then by his promise in the gospel.

## CONCLUSION

### **These truths are so profound!**

Can you begin to see how you, your salvation, your life and service, and your suffering fit into the ultimate plan and purpose of God?

Don't be ashamed; share the sufferings of Christ. How? Why? On what Basis?

All of this is mind boggling! I am part of God's eternal plan—yes, even when I suffer for Him!

**YOU MUST SHARE THE SUFFERING OF CHRIST AND PAUL AND OTHER BELIEVERS.**