

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

2 Timothy Series

These questions are for the **April 21, 2024** message, "Now that Christ has appeared." Please read the sermon passage (2 Timothy 1:8-12a) together out loud.

Passage Outline

1. Do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord. (8a)
 - a. Shame is a negative mindset about Jesus which makes us fall silent.
 - b. The causes of growing shame:
 - i. The testimony about Jesus (many rejected him, he died on a cross).
 - ii. The testimony about Paul (chased out of towns, shipwrecked, imprisoned).
2. Share in suffering for the gospel. (8b)
 - a. The cause of suffering is our collective loyalty to the gospel message.
 - b. Suffering is a team project.
 - i. Jesus suffered first and most. By his wounds we are healed. (1 Pet 4:12-16)
 - ii. Paul calls us to take on our share of suffering ("join me").
 1. Suffering is sanctifying. (Colossians 1:24)
 2. We must not try to reduce suffering through tampering with the gospel.
3. We faithfully share in suffering by . . .
 - a. The power of God. (7, 8, 12)
 - b. God *gives* us this power. It is therefore "gracious." God gives us . . .
 - i. Sovereign grace (9a)
 - ii. Preexistent grace (9b)
 - iii. Visible grace (10)
 - iv. Personal grace (11-12a)

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: We must guard against being embarrassed of the gospel or silent about the gospel because of the majority opinion. How could you improve at talking about the gospel of Jesus in everyday situations? In everyday conversations?
2. Based on #1, above: Timothy was younger, was not apparently naturally bold, and seemed to have some anxiety (or a weak constitution). How do you identify with Timothy? How does this two-fold directive, "do not be ashamed, but join in suffering," challenge you?
3. Based on #2, above: Read Colossians 1:24. One purpose of suffering is its sanctifying effect on the church. How has faithful suffering made you more holy? More like Jesus? More mature?
4. Based on #3, above: God gives us the grace which we need. The power to endure hardship come from him. We described his grace (in verses 9-12) as "sovereign" (he gives it, 9a), "preexistent" (he decided 'before the ages,' 9b), "visible" (everyone can see his grace in Jesus Christ, 10) and "personal" (he gave the call to Paul, and to each of us, 11-12a). Which of these aspects of God's grace most astounds you? Which makes you shout your loudest praise?