

Lesson 14

Believing is Difficult

2 Timothy 1:8-18



MEMORIAL DRIVE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH





Opening Music

Unashamed of You by Chris August

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5QoemxjFaM>



MEMORIAL DRIVE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



2 Timothy 2:7

**For God did not give us
a spirit of timidity,
but a spirit of power,
of love, and
of self-discipline.**

BSD Visitors Day



Thursday, February 16

Wednesday, February 22

Sunday, February 19



**Although we welcome visitors any day
BSD meets, we ask you to pray and invite
someone to join you for Visitors Day 2017.**

Pajamas for the Pulpit



ATTITUDE

Paul is pointing fingers as he talks to Timothy about attitude.

Disgraceful or Honorable

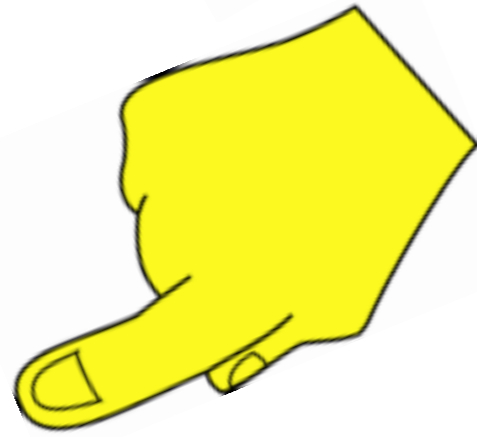


Timidity or Confidence

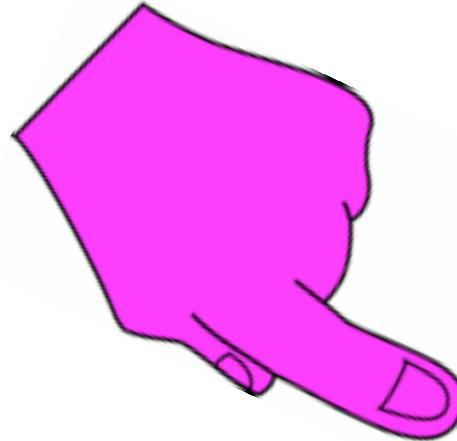


Attitude

Disappointment or Hopefulness



Shame or Loyalty



ATTITUDE

Disgraceful or Honorable



What are you going to choose?

Attitude: Disgraceful or Honorable

In the ancient Roman world, everybody knew there was a code of conduct of what was honorable and what was not. Some disgraceful actions or attitudes would bring shame on a person, family or town.



Background

If you knew or associated with the right people, your status was elevated, and you received special treatment in business and society. But if you were out-of-favor, then you were treated badly.

Attitude: Disgraceful or Honorable

Background

In Paul's time, suicide was prevalent. Stoics (thinkers and people of the highest principles) committed suicide when they thought there was no way out of their misery.



Rembrandt's St. Paul in Prison

Attitude: Disgraceful or Honorable

Background



St. Paul's Prison in Rome

Paul's situation looks to be a 2nd imprisonment in Rome, more severe than the 1st time. In those days, the friends and family of the prisoner were to care for the needs of the incarcerated.

It was not the State's responsibility!

Whose definition of disgrace and honor was Paul asking Timothy to remember or adopt?

ATTITUDE

Timidity or Confidence



What are you going to choose?

Attitude: Timidity or Confidence



Paul was confident. He didn't comply with the ruling government. He professed the message of the gospel where Jesus was ruler, not the Roman Emperor.

The Roman sympathizers professed Caesar as lord, ruler, and savior of the world.

Attitude: Timidity or Confidence

Paul wants Timothy to remember that he was given a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Why are people timid today?

- Many feel poorly prepared to explain the reasons for their faith.
- Many don't want the disapproval or mockery from their peers. People desire to belong. They don't want to be bullied.
- Many are being persecuted around the world and fear pain.
- Many doubt themselves or their abilities.
- Many fear failure.



Attitude: Timidity or Confidence

Paul has confidence!

Paul is passionate about the gospel. Passion is the willingness to suffer for something because it is worthy. Paul passionately tells Timothy (and us) why the gospel is worth the suffering that will come.

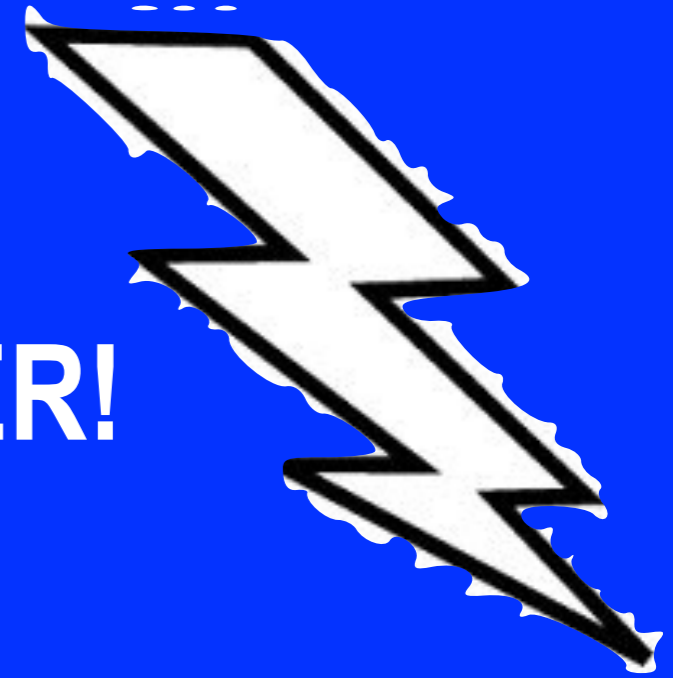
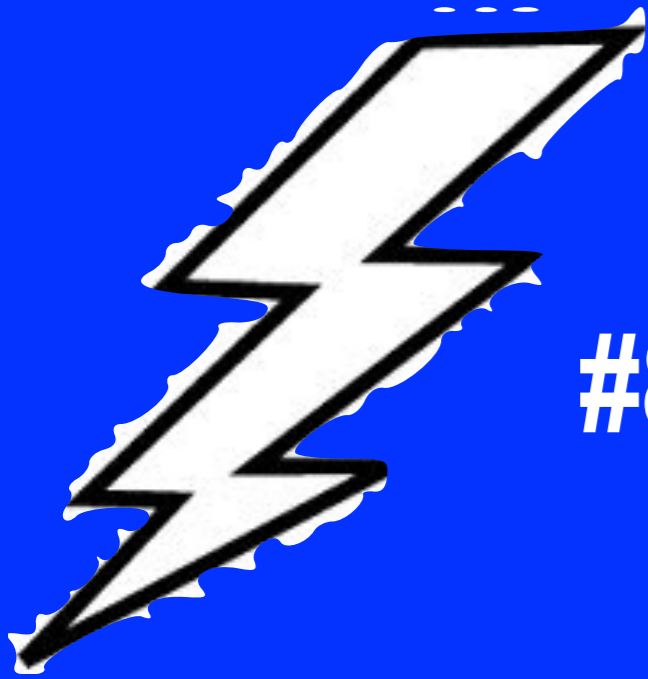
Love always involves responsibility, and love always involves sacrifice. And we do not really love Christ unless we are prepared to face His task and to take up His Cross.

– William Barclay

According to William Barclay, Paul gives us *(whether directly or indirectly)* 8 reasons why the gospel is worth the suffering.

Attitude: Timidity or Confidence

Why the gospel is worth the suffering that will come.



#8 The Gospel is of POWER!

power to conquer self

power to master the circumstances

power to go on living when life is unlivable

power to be a Christian when being one looks impossible

God's power trumps earthly power.

It is God's power that will help us carry any suffering.

Believers have the Holy Spirit!

Attitude: Timidity or Confidence

Why the gospel is worth the suffering that will come:



#7 The Gospel is of SALVATION!

The gospel liberates people from the habits which seem unbreakable, from the things that have him/her in their power, from sins which have become part of the fiber of our lives.

Jesus saved believers through his death and resurrection.

Attitude: Timidity or Confidence

Why the gospel is worth the suffering that will come:

#6 The Gospel is of TRANSFORMATION!

The gospel compels us to walk in the path of holiness. It doesn't simply rescue us from the consequences of sin.



#5 The Gospel is of GRACE!

Grace is getting what we do not deserve. Without grace, we are helpless and hopeless because we can never achieve holiness by works.

Attitude: Timidity or Confidence

Why the gospel is worth the suffering that will come:

#4 The Gospel is of GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE!

Love is the essence of the eternal nature and being of God.

Before the beginning of time, God had a plan for people.

God wants a relationship with us.



#3 The Gospel is of LIFE & IMMORTALITY!

The ancient world thought death was extinction, but Jesus' message was that death was the way to life.

Attitude: Timidity or Confidence

Why the gospel is worth the suffering that will come:



#2 The Gospel is of SERVICE!

The gospel that was laid upon Paul included the task of service to God and his fellow people.

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. John 13:14-15 ESV

Attitude: Timidity or Confidence

Why the gospel is worth the suffering that will come:

**#1 The Gospel
is of
JESUS!**



**Jesus is the rescuing and saving intervention of God.
Without Jesus, we are hopeless.**

**Is Paul encouraging Timothy to have an attitude of
timidity or confidence?**

ATTITUDE

Shame or Loyalty



What are you going to choose?

Attitude: Shame or Loyalty

Paul was asking Timothy to be loyal to a gospel that will bring him trouble with the government and loyalty to a man who was a prisoner of that government!



Attitude: Shame or Loyalty

Herald

He makes the announcement or brings the good news calling the listeners to accept the rich offer given by Jesus.

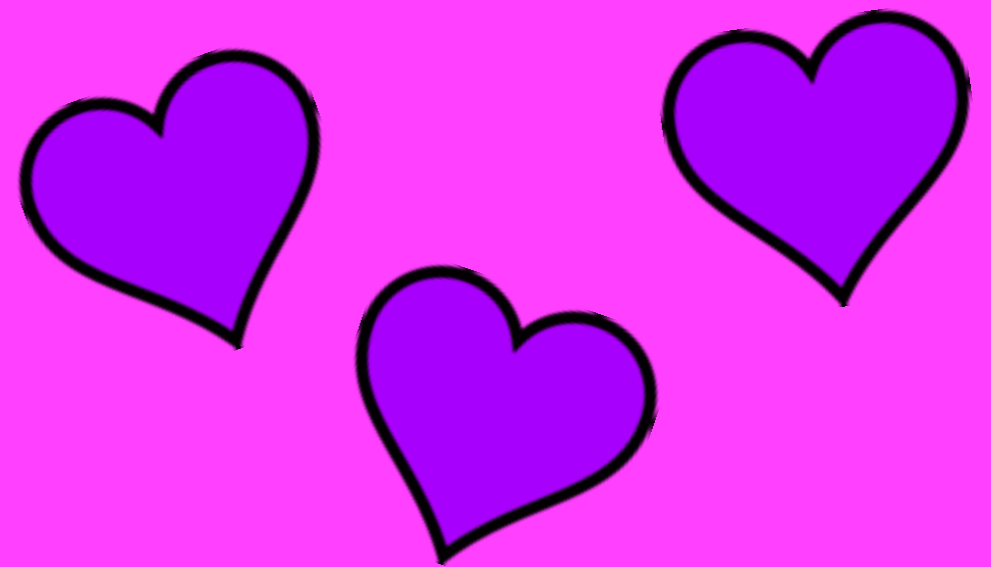
Paul serves the Gospel in 3 ways.

Apostle

Paul is the ambassador and represents the sender. He speaks for Christ and represents Christ to others.

Teacher

Paul explains God's Truth in order to edify the church. Heralds plant the seed and teachers encourage the growth.



Attitude: Shame or Loyalty

**Paul is unashamed. Paul is loyal to Jesus.
His own ministry happened only through God's action.**



Herald

Apostle



Teacher



He himself didn't choose these different ways to serve but Paul was grateful for the gift from God.

Is Paul encouraging Timothy to have an attitude of shame or loyalty?

ATTITUDE

**Disappointment or
Hopefulness**



What are you going to choose?

Attitude: Disappointment or Hopefulness

You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

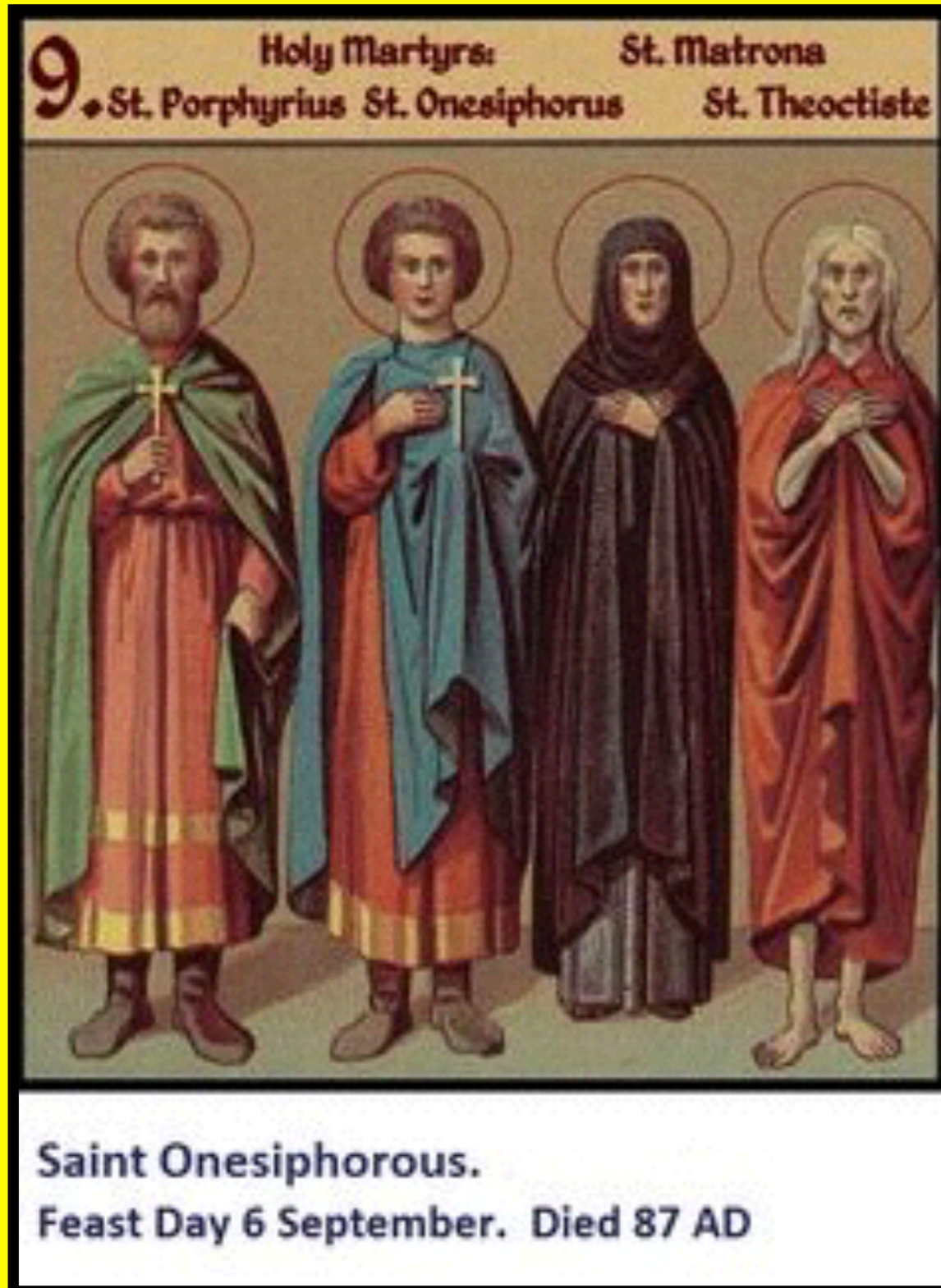
2 Timothy 1:15 NIV



**Province of Asia
is Asia Minor.**

**Total desertion is
debatable.**

Attitude: Disappointment or Hopefulness



**Paul speaks of his
Disappointing
Fair-Weather Friends**

Phygelus & Hermogenes

**in contrast to his
Hopeful Friend**

Onesiphorus.

Attitude: Disappointment or Hopefulness

Why was Onesiphorus a hopeful friend?

Example:

He was unashamed
of Paul.

Focused & Persistent:

He took the initiative
to find Paul.



Kind &

Generous:

He refreshed Paul by
providing for his
needs. When
discouraged, he
refreshed Paul with
friendship.

Is Paul encouraging an attitude of disappointment or hopefulness?

ATTITUDE

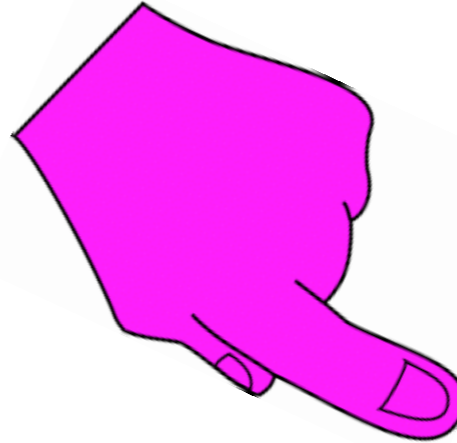
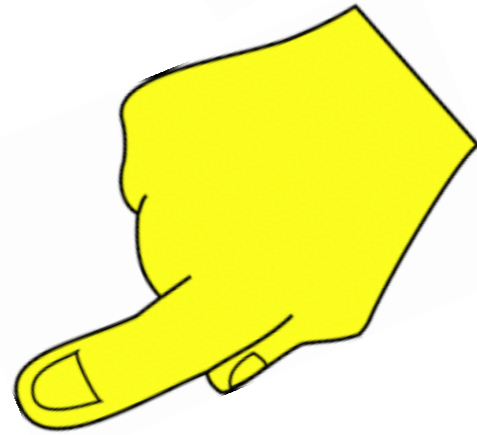
Paul tells Timothy look at his attitude.

~~Disrespectful or
Honorable~~



~~Timidity or
Confidence~~

Attitude



~~Disappointment
or Hopefulness~~

~~Shame or
Loyalty~~

Paul was “passing the torch” to the next generation. Paul wrote Timothy letters to encourage him.

**If Paul were to text you today, what would he say to encourage you about your attitude?
(Use no more than 10 words.)**

Close in Prayer