

| **Series Title:** Resilient Faith – Lessons from 2 Timothy |
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| **Weekly Title:** Resilient in Freedom |
| **Date:** Sunday October 27 |
| **Bible Passage:** 2 Timothy 1:8-18 |
| **Purpose of Preach:** To encourage people to throw off any shame or fear by fixing their eyes on Jesus, swimming in God’s grace and not giving up on God’s people. |
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| **Introduction:**  We are continuing our series “Resilient Faith” as we walk our way through Paul’s letter to Timothy. We saw last week that Paul encourages him of the power that is at work within him through the Holy Spirit. Now in 1:8-18 Paul focuses on something else he knows we need to be set free from if we are going to have resilient faith – he says “therefore do not be ashamed”. The word translated “ashamed” is a strong word in Greek. It means to feel an “overwhelming weight of fear, anxiety and embarrassment. It means to be held back through fear of disappointment that you are going to be let down, and lacking courage to keep going”. Paul is saying to Timothy that there will be times in this race with Jesus where we feel tempted to be ashamed and back down or slow down with Him. Timothy was facing the very real threat of persecution and the pressure for him to be fearful, anxious and lack the courage to keep going was very real. It is important for us to see that Timothy genuinely battled with feeling “ashamed” otherwise Paul would not have written in this way. Furthermore, Paul himself struggled with this too which is why he felt it necessary to write so strongly “I am not ashamed of the gospel” in Romans 1:16. Every Christian will at times wrestle with the feelings of “Is this really worth all the fight? Is the cost worth it? What if I have got all of this wrong and am wasting my life?”. These are the struggles that Paul is speaking into. In these verses he calls Timothy and us to never be ashamed but to live with “Resilient Freedom”. How can we live in Resilient Freedom? |
| **1. v.8+v.12. Freedom comes from KNOWING Jesus.**  “Resilient Freedom” flows from keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus and keeping it all about Him, for Him and to Him.  *i) Paul writes “do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord”.* It is possible to begin to lose sight of who Jesus is in the busyness and pressures and battles of life. It is a temptation to feel fear and ask “Is He really who He claims to be?” “Is He really worth it?”.  *ii) Paul answers in v.12 “But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed.”* The word “know” is not simply an intellectual knowledge but an experiential and relational one. Paul was not embarrassed or fearful or questioning because even as he sat in the prison cell awaiting to be killed, he knew Jesus. He knew His love, His worth, His majesty, His presence and His glory. Even sat in the darkness and seeming hopelessness of his situation Paul was not ashamed because he was living for someone greater than anything or anyone this world has to offer. He knew Jesus, loved Jesus. This is why in the midst of the battles and the suffering he was not ashamed.  *iii) Knowing Jesus brings freedom into our lives.* Knowing and experiencing His worth and presence and love frees us from fear and anxiety.  **Task; find other examples in the bible of when someone let knowing God free them from the things they were feeling or experiencing.**  E.g; Moses let God free him from the fear of having a speech impediment  Abraham let God free from from the fear of sacrificing his only son  David let God free him from feeling equipped to deal with Goliath  Daniel let God free him from the fear of not following King Darius  What was it that the examples did that meant they were able to find freedom?  How can we better know Jesus in our own personal walks with Him? |
| **#2: v.8-14. Freedom flows from SWIMMING in God’s Grace**  “Resilient Freedom” flows from standing upon the gospel and continually swimming in the depths of God’s grace.  i*) In v.9-10 Paul reminds Timothy of the incredible and glorious truth of the gospel.*  Jesus is our Saviour who has saved us, abolished death and brought life. We have been saved (He saved us). We are being saved – we have been called by Him to a holy calling and am being transformed and becoming more and more like Him.  *ii) Paul tells Timothy not to be ashamed of the gospel but to “follow the pattern of the sound words you have heard from me”.*  Freedom comes from the truth and power of the gospel. Paul is saying “don’t let the battles, pressures and opinions of others make you dilute or distort the gospel”. Stand firm on it. It is God’s truth, it is God’s plan of salvation. There is no other way to experience His freedom and grace but through faith in Jesus and the gospel. Therefore, “guard” the deposit.  *iv) Know that His Grace is sufficient for you.*  Paul tells Timothy “I am convinced that He is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me” and then “by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard”. The power and the freedom is in Him – you can make it, you can keep going because He is with you.  **Application**  Could it be that we are distorting or diluting the gospel? Have we lost sight of God’s amazing grace? Sometimes when we try and share the gospel, we can get stuck on words, embarrassed and back out of it.  **Task;**  **Practise with those around you how you could work the gospel into a conversation**  **\*This is a safe space to try these things out!** |
| **#3: v.15-18. Freedom is experienced as we DO LIFE with God’s People**  In these opening verses Paul reminds Timothy of how God uses His people to refresh and encourage us to keep going.  *i) Paul knew the reality that at times God’s people will let us down and hurt us.* Timothy led the church in Ephesus and this was the capital of the Roman province of Asia which is why Paul writes in v.15 “you are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.” This most likely refers to the moment of Paul’s re-arrest which led him to the prison cell he is now sat in. People had totally and completely let him down and refused to stand with in his moment of need. The church had had pioneered, loved and stood with now seemingly rejected and disowned him.  *ii) However, he also knew the joy and freedom that comes when God’s people are doing life together His way.* He had experienced the depth of friendship and love with Timothy. He had experienced the love and encouragement of the household of Onesiphorus who often refreshed him. This is the writer to the Hebrews says: “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”(Hebrews 10:24-25).  **Task;**  I’m sure we can all think of times where people have let us down so let’s think about the times we’ve felt a part of God’s community. Did someone do something you remember? Was it an event? What made you feel welcome and that you belong and were valued?  \*We want to show these things to each other so we create a Godly environment to do life with each other. |