

DO NOT BE ASHAMED!

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Being ashamed is a terrible feeling. We ought to be ashamed of thoughts and actions that are sinful. But there are things that we should not be ashamed of, things that are right and good. Our prayer should be that of David: *“Do not let me be ashamed, O Lord, for I have called upon You; let the wicked be ashamed; let them be silent in the grave”* (Psalm 31:17). Consider the things we should **not** be ashamed of:

GOSPEL OF CHRIST – Paul wrote, “For I am **not ashamed** of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith’” (Romans 1:16, 17). The Bible is a favorite book to bash in our world today. It is called “mistake-filled,” “out-of-date,” “bigoted” or worse. We need not be ashamed of the gospel message in any way, shape, or form! The truth will remain truth no matter what someone may say about it.

The old Jerusalem gospel will still save a soul from sin, teach the ways of righteousness, and expose error that should be avoided. Scoffers that mock it and unbelievers who reject it will be judged by it someday. Do not be ashamed of the powerful gospel of Christ!

BEING A DILIGENT WORKER – Paul wrote to Timothy, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does **not need to be ashamed**, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). The diligent spiritual worker desires to be approved to God. We should never be ashamed to put the approval of God first in our lives. Yet the world seeks to make us feel embarrassed, even ashamed, of putting the things of God first. The faithful, growing, working Christian never needs to be ashamed.

Diligent study of the word of God so as to rightly divide its principles and commandments should be exciting, not a drudgery. We should be ashamed if we allow ourselves to remain ignorant of the fundamentals of God’s word and fail to move on to the “meat” of spiritual knowledge and discernment (cf. Hebrews 5:12-14). Consistent and careful study of the Bible produces the joy of wisdom, not the shame of error.

SUFFERING AS A CHRISTIAN – Peter wrote, “Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him **not be ashamed**, but let him glorify God in this matter” (1 Peter 4:16). Being known as a strong, dedicated Christian can bring some uninvited problems such as sneers, discrimination, suspicions, and outright hatred. The attitudes of many today are downright hostile toward those who believe and obey the Bible. Such treatment should not drive us into shamed silence but strengthen us to remain openly faithful to God and His word. Do not be ashamed to suffer as a Christian. It is a badge of honor.