

April 20/21, 2024

"Guarding the Treasure"

Pastor Jeff Manion



**Beyond the
Weekend**

SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2024 Challenge: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament

April: Read Exodus to see how people, situations and events point to Jesus

Day 1 2 Timothy 1:8-18 | Don't Be Ashamed

So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. 2 Timothy 1:8

Paul admonishes Timothy repeatedly not to be ashamed of him or the gospel message. Timothy needs this encouragement because many situations could cause shame. People mock Christians because their God was executed on a Roman cross. Timothy's mentor, Paul, sits in chains in a Roman jail, awaiting a trial for following Jesus. Being a Christian holds no advantages. Believers suffer, and they struggle to not become ashamed of their faith. Paul urges Timothy to stand firm and to avoid joining the number of the ashamed.

We need Paul's encouragement to embrace being a follower of Jesus and not be ashamed of the gospel as it becomes less and less popular in our culture. We may be misunderstood or labeled "narrow-minded" for following Jesus. Some of us may be rejected at work for what we believe. Others may have friends walk away because of their faith. Whatever we encounter, the same God who gave Paul and Timothy strength to not be ashamed of him is with us, too.

TODAY: Pray for strength and grace to remain true to the gospel in situations that tempt you to be ashamed of Jesus. "God, I desire to follow you with your strength and perseverance. Help me stay true to the gospel of Jesus in this situation _____. Amen."

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Exodus 25](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider the articles for the Tabernacle and how these may point to Jesus.

Day 2 2 Timothy 1:9-10 | What is the Gospel?

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. 2 Timothy 1:9a

Paul challenges Timothy not to be ashamed but willing to suffer for Jesus for one reason—the gospel. He reminds Timothy that they've been rescued completely through grace and given real, true life. Paul never gets over the wonder of this radically transformative news. Paul lives in complete amazement that God found and rescued him: dead in transgressions and sins, moved from death to life only because of God's grace. Paul experiences Jesus as "the resurrection and the life" ([John 11:25](#)). Paul urges Timothy never to abandon this message of rescue, grace and life.

Our world still desperately needs this "death-to-life" gospel message. We, like Paul, "were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of

righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy” ([Titus 3:3-5a](#)). Recognizing the incredible nature of the gospel helps us not be ashamed of it.

TODAY: If you have not yet placed your faith and trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sin, you can do so today by admitting your need for Jesus’s forgiveness and inviting him into your life. If you are a follower of Jesus, join us for the Ada Bible Academy to learn how to share the gospel or discover how the early Christians lived unashamed of the gospel despite deep suffering. Learn more and register at adabile.org/ada-bible-academy.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Exodus 26-27](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider the articles for the Tabernacle and how these may point to Jesus.

Day 3 2 Timothy 1:11-12 | It’s About Jesus

I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day. 2 Timothy 1:12b

Paul is chained in a Roman prison as he writes to Timothy. The authorities feed him just enough to keep him alive. Paul depends on the generosity of friends for anything beyond basic survival. The cell is numbingly cold in winter and blisteringly hot in the summer. Paul receives few visitors and suffers physically and emotionally. But he is not ashamed because he knows who he suffers for—Jesus. He knows Jesus suffered for him, so he’s willing to suffer for Jesus. Paul even holds suffering as a goal. He writes in another letter: “I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead” ([Philippians 3:10-11](#)).

At its core, Christianity is trusting in someone. Our faith centers on Jesus. The more we know Jesus, the stronger our relationship with him grows, the more we will remain steadfast. Knowing Jesus—his character, mission, teachings and sufferings—provides us with his strength through the Holy Spirit to endure any suffering that following Jesus may bring. The more we get to know him, the more we know his heart for us, and our love for him deepens.

TODAY: Reflect on your understanding of Jesus. How often do your thoughts, attention and affection turn to Jesus during the day? How has your relationship with him matured over time? Journal your answers to these questions. Then pray for the Spirit’s wisdom and strength to deepen your love for and understanding of who Jesus is.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Exodus 28](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note the details given for the priests and how Jesus is our high priest.

Day 4 2 Timothy 1:13-14 | Keep and Guard

Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. 2 Timothy 1:14

Paul gives Timothy two commands. Timothy is to “keep” and “guard.” First, he is to “keep” the teaching he’s received from Paul at the center of his life. Second, he’s to “guard” what he’s been taught through the work of the Holy Spirit. These two commands are connected. One is about ensuring he has a proper understanding of what God has taught, and the other is about allowing the Holy Spirit to help him guard what he received.

Keeping to sound teaching means we need to study God’s Word and listen to good teaching regularly. We do these things through our personal study of the Bible and attending weekend services. The Holy Spirit works through the Word to remind us of what we have learned. We grow to rely on the Spirit as we invite the Spirit to

help us. As we commit to these practices of studying the Bible, listening to sound teaching and inviting the Spirit to speak, we find strength to stand firm amid cultural pressure and remain grounded in God's Word and the gospel.

TODAY: Commit to spending time with God, reading the Bible and sitting under the teaching of our pastors on the weekends. Write up a plan for staying committed to these practices as the weather gets warmer and other activities call for your attention. Share your commitment with a trusted friend and check in with each other in the coming months.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Exodus 29-31](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note the details given for the priests and how Jesus is our high priest.

Day 5 2 Timothy 1:15-18 | Two Paths

You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. 2 Timothy 1:15-16

Paul encourages Timothy not to be ashamed and to keep his relationship with God. It's an example of one Christian encouraging and challenging another inside a spiritual friendship. Paul ends this section by showing Timothy examples of two paths—disloyalty and loyalty. Many have abandoned Paul. Some have stuck with him. Maybe Onesiphorus's choice to stick with Paul will encourage Timothy to do the same.

The choice is the same for us today. We'll either have a relationship with Jesus that will sustain us through times of suffering or one that won't sustain us when cultural pressures try to make us ashamed. The tendency to deconstruct our faith or walk away because of societal pressures is significant and only getting stronger. The key to having a strong relationship with Jesus is what we looked at earlier this week about knowing the gospel and doing what is necessary to have a vibrant relationship with Jesus.

TODAY: Worship with the Ada Bible Church Worship Team as they sing "[Praise](#)." Use these lyrics to help you stay on the correct path and give you reasons not to be ashamed, "I'll praise 'cause you're sovereign...Praise 'cause you rose and defeated the grave." Focus your thoughts and attention on the God who is faithful, true and great.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Exodus 32](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note their disobedience in creating an image of God and how Jesus is the image of God to people ([John 14:9](#)).