

Courage

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1CO 4:9-16 For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men. We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world. I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I urge you to imitate me.

2TI 2:11-13 Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself. *(all quotes are from the NIV unless otherwise noted.)*

I. Lack of Courage—2Tim 1:7-8, 12-16

2TI 1:7-8 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,

2TI 1:12-16 That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you--guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. 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.

- A. Causes some not to witness as to salvation—comp. Rom 1:14-16 (when the communists took over China, it is reported that 3/4 of the 'christians' abandoned christianity!)

- B. Causes some not to stand for the mystery—Rom 16:25; Eph 3:9
- C. Causes some to become neo-evangelical. These people:
 1. Criticize and downgrade fundamentalist scholarship
 2. Criticize and downgrade Biblical Separation
 3. Want social involvement
 4. Downgrade dispensationalism
- D. Causes some not to stand for other precious truths—comp. Jn 6:44; Eph 4:4-6, 11, 12; Jer 3:15

II. Courage

- A. Enjoined—Dt 31:6; Josh 1:6, 10; 10:25; 2Sam10:12; Ps 31:24; Phil 1:27-28
- B. Be Strong—1Ki 2:2; 2Chron 15:7; Isa 35:4; Hag 2:4; 1Cor 16:13; Eph 6:10; 2Tim 2:1
- C. Boldness—Eph 6:19-20; At 4:13, 17-24, 29, 31
- D. Examples
 1. Paul—1Cor 4:9-16
 2. Caleb—Josh 14:12
 3. Jonathan—1Sam 14:6
 4. David—1Sam 17:32
 5. Three Captives—Dan 3:16-17
 6. Daniel—Dan 6:10

III. Cowardice and Fear

- A. Examples
 1. Ten Spies—Nu 13:33
 2. Followers of Gideon—Jud 7:3
 3. Israel before Goliath—1Sam 17:24
 4. David with Absalom—2Sam 15:14
 5. Ephraim—Ps 78:9
 6. Disciples—Mt 26:56
- B. Fear of Men—Dt 1:17; Prov 29:25; Isa 51:12; Jn 7:13; 12:42; Gal 2:12

IV. Men-pleasers

- A. General attitude of people—Jn 12:43
- B. To please the Jews—At 12:1-3; 24:27; 25:9

V. Fear of God—Ps 111:10; Rom 3:18; 2Cor 5:10-11; 6:14-7:1; Eph 5:21

- A. Examples
 1. Nehemiah—Ne 5:15
 2. Job—Job 1:8
 3. Jonah—Jonah 1:9
 4. Men in ship—Jonah 1:16
 5. Kingdom church—At 5:11
 6. Kingdom church when Paul saved—At 9:31
 7. Cornelius—At 10:2