

NO SHAME

‘I am not ashamed’ II Timothy 1:12

SHAME ABOUT PAST ACTS

At the end of his third missionary trip, Paul was in Jerusalem. Enemies of the Gospel of Jesus Christ recognized him and a false rumor spread that he had desecrated the temple by taking a gentile into it (Acts 21:27-29). A Jewish mob assembled and sought to kill him (Acts 21:30-31). He was rescued by Roman soldiers and allowed to speak to the crowd before being taken into custody (Acts 21:31-40). Employing the Hebrew tongue, he assured the Jews who wanted to rip him apart that he had much in common with them. Included among them was his previous persecution of the followers of Jesus to the point of imprisoning many (Acts 22:4). Paul was ashamed of these past actions. He told the Corinthian believers he was, *"The least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God"* (I Corinthians 15:9).

SHAME ABOUT PAST SINS

When Paul was teaching the Romans about their newfound freedom from sin and death, he mentioned, *"Those things whereof ye are now ashamed"* (Romans 6:21). Those things referred to sins from their past. Believers in Christ know our sins are forgiven, but if you are like me, I still feel a twinge of regret or even shame when I remember past regretful acts or sins.

VICTORY OVER SHAME FROM THE PAST

Paul knew the answer to the problem of shame from past acts or past sins. It comes with grasping the gospel's truth and not being ashamed to claim its promises (Romans 1:16). These truths include believing in:

- The power of faith in Christ – Fully embrace the New Life in Christ we have through faith. – *"Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed"* – Romans 9:33, 10:11.
- The power of hope that God's work on the inside of you is recreating the image of Christ in you – *"Hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."* – Romans 5:5.
- His power to keep you when enemies, including shame from the past, come to bring you down – *"I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day"* – II Tim. 1:12.

Embracing these truths not only delivers us from shame but places us squarely among the victorious throughout the ages who:

"Desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city" (Hebrews.11:16). I am not ashamed to be included in that group.