

2 Timothy Series: Live Without Regret

Week 1: Live without Shame

June 3, 2007

Introduction:

- Just this past year, we got a new dog, Dungy. (pics on screen)
 - Labradoodle
 - Huge!
 - Crate Training

- Why did we crate train?
 - It keeps him away from things we don't want him near.
 - Out of rooms that we don't want him in.
 - When people are over, perhaps they aren't comfortable with dogs...
 - When we leave the house we don't have to take him with us...

- Crate Training is great for a dog...but it is a horrible thing to do to a person...let alone, the Son of God!

- That doesn't even feel right to say...but listen to the reasons why we crate train.
 - I think most of us could say that we have come pretty close to "crate training" Jesus.
 - It keeps him away from things we don't want him near.
 - Out of rooms that we don't want him in.
 - When people are around, perhaps they not comfortable w/ religious talk
 - When we leave the house we don't have to take him with us...

- I feel like I do that in my own life sometimes...keeping Christ at a safe distance, not allowing him into certain areas of my life. There are moments when I want Him close, can feel Him right beside me. But there are times when I shut the door to an area of my life and I leave Him standing outside.

- Let's think about our lives and the aspects and parts of our lives that Jesus is allowed to enter and other parts that are closed off to Him:
 - Our marriage
 - Our social time
 - Our jobs

- This morning we begin a new series in 2 Timothy...by the Book. Our theme for the next 4 weeks is simply "A Life without Regret". Paul writes his final letter and who better to send it to then his son in the faith, Timothy.
 - Very somber
 - 2 Tim. is a very personal letter...
 - While being very personal, we can look at 2 Timothy as Paul's last will and testament to the church.

PRAYER

2 Timothy 1

1) This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I have been sent out to tell others about the life he has promised through faith in Christ Jesus.

- His introduction of himself is not necessary for Timothy, but for the church and all believers who would read this letter.
- Paul's mission in life has been clear since the day he opened the door to his life and let Jesus in. There is so much in those two words, "the life".
- What happens to "life" when we let Jesus in?
- 2 Cor. 5:17 - anyone in Christ is a new creation!!
- It's only a foretaste of the life to come when Jesus returns!

2) I am writing to Timothy, my dear son.

May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord give you grace, mercy, and peace.

3) Timothy, I thank God for you—the God I serve with a clear conscience (no regrets!!), just as my ancestors did. Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 4) I long to see you again, for I remember your tears as we parted. And I will be filled with joy when we are together again.

- An incredible bond between these two men
- In Philippians 2:22, Paul writes, **"As a son with a father he has served with me in the work of the gospel."** NIV
- Our society has such a individualistic attitude regarding how men should act or feel.
- It's too touchy feely....too...whatever!
- Emotions, feelings, intimacy are some of the rooms that Jesus needs to enter and yes it is okay to cry.

5) I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.

- Paul watched faith in Jesus move through generations of people, knowing how important family was to the faith process. That parents and grandparents have the most influence in the lives of their kids and grandkids!

6) This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. 7) For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

- 1 Cor. 16:10-11, Paul says, “Don’t intimidate Timothy...” / 1 Tim. 4:12 says, “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young.”
- What a mentor Paul was, watching out for Timothy, encouraging him to stay strong!
- I’ve seen that person who is older in their faith. Some like to encourage...others like to intimidate...we should look to Paul’s example.
- Paul encourages Timothy to grow, become stronger in his faith. Just as a fire becomes more heated and grows when it’s fed oxygen, our spiritual gifts need to be strengthened and worked out.
- We were given a gift that should give us boldness with power, love and self-control.

8) So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don’t be ashamed of me, either, even though I’m in prison for him. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News. 9) For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. 10) And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News. 11) And God chose me to be a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of this Good News. 12) That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return.

- Life without Shame...here it is! Don’t be ashamed to show Jesus...to be Jesus to others.
- Let’s read vs. 9 together (on screen)
- We know that we are ashamed of Christ when...
 - ...hope no one knows we are Christians
 - ...don’t speak up for what is right or good
 - ...keep our relationship with Jesus on the DL (Down Low)
 - ...look just like the world and blend well with the culture
 - ...when we accept the world’s non-Christian values
- Paul lived his life unashamedly, to the point of prison and eventually death, but he trusted God with his soul!

13) Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me—a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. 14) Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you.

- some versions say, “hold as a standard”
- Guard it, not by hiding it in the ground, but share it with others to use.

15) As you know, everyone from the province of Asia has deserted me—even Phygelus (Fi-gee-less) and Hermogenes (Her-ma-jo-nees).

16) May the Lord show special kindness to Onesiphorus (O-nesa-for-us) and all his family because he often visited and encouraged me. He was never ashamed of me because I was in chains. 17) When he came to Rome, he searched everywhere until he found me. 18) May the Lord show him special kindness on the day of Christ's return. And you know very well how helpful he was in Ephesus.

- Paul named names...he named the ones to watch out for, the ones he no longer had confidence in or trusted and he named those who could be counted on.

- If Paul had a list today, were would you find yourself? The list of shame? Have you kept Jesus at arms length, only bringing him out for church? Have you adopted behaviors of this world that go against the "holy life" that we are called into?

How do we Live without Shame:

#1 - Open the Door to Jesus

- John Stott is a British Christian leader, author, preacher and theologian He heard a sermon once on the verse found in Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." John Stott describes the impact this verse had upon him:

"Here, then, is the crucial question which we have been leading up to. Have we ever opened our door to Christ? Have we ever invited him in? This was exactly the question which I needed to have put to me. For, intellectually speaking, I had believed in Jesus all my life, on the other side of the door. I had regularly struggled to say my prayers through the key-hole. I had even pushed pennies under the door in a vain attempt to pacify him. I had been baptized, yes and confirmed as well. I went to church, read my Bible, had high ideals, and tried to be good and do good. But all the time, often without realizing it, I was holding Christ at arm's length, and keeping him outside. I knew that to open the door might have momentous consequences. I am profoundly grateful to him for enabling me to open the door. Looking back now over more than fifty years, I realize that that simple step has changed the entire direction, course and quality of my life."

How do we do that?

- ...live moral, Christ-honoring lives
- ...share your faith with others
- ...help people in need
- ...love others
- ...acknowledge our love for Christ (wow)
- ...use our lives and resources for Him, not our own desires!

#2 - Close the Door to the World

- Door to door sales / little kids bilking us for more money, buying coupons I'll never use!

- You can't hide!!

- Be Bold!! Vs. 7!

- 10) And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News.

- Jesus will help you see what needs to happen in your life, the changes you need to make, how to live without shame, with no regrets, with a "clear conscience". But you have to open the door, be bold, hold on to the pattern of teaching in this book!

CONCLUSION:

- Paul writes this final letter, stating, "I've got no regrets. I've done what Jesus has asked me to do."

- What about you? Do you want to reach the end of your life with no regrets, know you did what Jesus wanted.

- Usually our regrets in life have little to do with how it affects us and more to do with what it does to the ones we love. I wish I would have loved her more. Given more. I wish I would have shared Jesus with my kids. Knowing what I know now, I wish I wouldn't have gone down that path.

INVITATION