

2 Timothy 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless 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.

Analysis

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless 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. The phrase "for the which cause" connects Paul's suffering directly to his gospel ministry and Gentile mission. His imprisonment isn't random misfortune but consequence of faithful proclamation. Yet Paul declares "I am not ashamed" (*ouk epaischynomai*, οὐκ ἐπαισχύνομαι)—present tense indicating ongoing attitude. Despite chains, isolation, and impending execution, Paul feels no shame regarding his gospel ministry or imprisonment for Christ.

Paul's confidence rests on personal knowledge: "I know whom I have believed" (*oida gar hō pepisteuka*, οἶδα γὰρ ᾧ πεπίστευκα). The verb "know" (*oida*, οἶδα) indicates certain, experiential knowledge—not mere intellectual assent but intimate personal acquaintance with Christ. Paul's faith isn't in abstract doctrines but in a Person he knows. The perfect tense "have believed" indicates completed action with ongoing results—Paul placed faith in Christ years ago, and that faith continues.

Paul is "persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (*parathēkēn mou phylaxai*, παραθήκην μου φυλάξαι). The noun *parathēkē* (παραθήκη) means "deposit" or "trust"—something valuable entrusted

for safekeeping. Paul has entrusted his soul, eternal destiny, and life's work to Christ's keeping. "That day" refers to Christ's return and final judgment—Paul's confidence extends beyond death to resurrection and reward.

Historical Context

Ancient banking and commercial practices involved entrusting valuable deposits to reliable guardians. Wealthy individuals deposited money, jewelry, or documents with trusted associates for safekeeping, relying on the guardian's faithfulness and ability to protect the deposit. Failure to return deposits intact brought severe legal and social consequences. Paul uses this familiar metaphor to express confidence that Christ will faithfully preserve what Paul has committed to Him—his salvation, ministry, and eternal reward. This metaphor would have resonated powerfully with original readers familiar with deposit customs.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What causes you to feel ashamed of Christ or your Christian identity, and how can Paul's example inspire shameless faithfulness despite opposition?
2. Can you say "I know whom I have believed" based on personal, experiential relationship with Christ, not merely intellectual knowledge about Him?
3. What specific aspects of your life, future, and eternal destiny have you fully entrusted to Christ's keeping, and what are you still trying to protect or control yourself?

Interlinear Text

δι' ὧ ἀίτιαν καὶ ταῦτα πάσχω· ἀλλ' οὐκ
For the which cause also these things I nevertheless not
G1223 G3739 G156 G2532 G5023 G3958 G235 G3756

ἐπαισχύνομαι οἶδα γὰρ ὧ πεπίστευκα καὶ
I am I know for the which I have believed also
G1870 G1492 G1063 G3739 G4100 G2532

πέπεισμαι ὅτι δυνατός ἐστιν τὴν παραθήκην
am persuaded that able he is have committed unto him
G3982 G3754 G1415 G2076 G3588 G3866

μου φυλάξαι εἰς ἐκείνην τὴν ἡμέραν
that which I to keep against that day
G3450 G5442 G1519 G1565 G3588 G2250

Additional Cross-References

2 Timothy 1:8 (Parallel theme): Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

Jude 1:24 (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

2 Timothy 4:8 (Parallel theme): Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

1 Timothy 6:20 (Faith): O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

1 Peter 4:19 (Faith): Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

Hebrews 7:25 (Parallel theme): Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Romans 1:16 (Faith): For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Nahum 1:7 (Faith): The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

Matthew 24:36 (Parallel theme): But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Psalms 25:2 (Faith): O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.

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