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I'm Not Ashamed to Own My Lord

*I'm not ashamed to own my Lord,
Or to defend His cause,
Maintain the honor of His word,
The glory of His cross.*

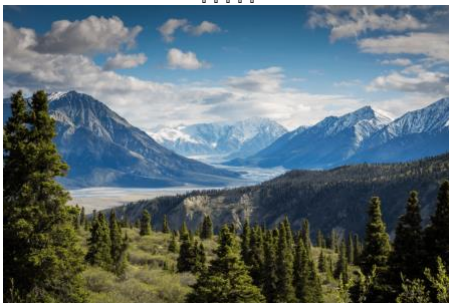
*Jesus, my God! I know His name,
His name is all my trust;
Nor will He put my soul to shame,
Nor let my hope be lost.*

*Firm as His throne His promise stands,
And He can well secure
What I've committed to His hands
'til the decisive hour.*

*Then will He own my worthless name
Before His Father's face,
And in the new Jerusalem,
Appoint my soul a place.*

WORDS: Isaac Watts (circa 1707)

MUSIC: Carl Glaser (?)



But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. 2 Timothy 1:12



THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED

Dr. Robert Morehead tells the story of a young man from Rwanda who was forced by his tribe in 1980 to renounce Christ or face death. He refused to renounce Christ, and he was murdered on the spot. The night before, he had written the following commitment which was found in his room.

"I am a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have the Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame visions, mundane talking, chintzy giving, and dwarfed goals.

"I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by presence, learn by faith, love by patience, lift by prayer and labor by power.

"My pace is set; my gait is fast. My goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few. My Guide is reliable, my mission is clear.

"I cannot be bought, compromised, deterred, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

"I won't give up, back up, let up, or shut up until I've preached up, prayed up, paid up, stored up, and stayed up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go until He returns, give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes.

"And when He comes to get His own, He will have no problem recognizing me. My colors will be clear, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes..." (Romans 1:16)

From <http://www.wacmm.org/>

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Shamed or Unshamed

Shame is an emotion we do not like or embrace. Shame usually follows doing or saying something we should not have said or done, which leads to deep embarrassment and/or shame. It is a negative emotion caused by awareness of wrongdoing, hurt ego, or guilt. Public exposure of one's guilt brings shame (Gen. 2:25; 3:10). Shame may also come by a hurt reputation or embarrassment (Ps. 25:2-3; Prov. 19:26; Rom. 1:16). Bible examples include when Mary was found to be "with child," and her intended, Joseph, did not wish to shame her. Other Bible examples show that God exposed the guilt of ungodly people, putting them to shame (Dan. 12:2). Jesus Himself suffered the shame of the cross because He was put on public display as the recipient of God's wrath (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 12:2).

The children of Israel were a capricious people throughout their history. During their time of captivity in Egypt, they experienced slavery and ill treatment that one can only imagine. Even though they lived in Egypt and witnessed the plagues God brought upon the Egyptians, they were not affected by them.

God instituted one of their most sacred celebrations during that time. We know it as Passover. They were instructed to put the blood of an unblemished lamb without defect on their door posts before death came to all the firstborn in Egypt. Every Egyptian household, including the household of Pharaoh, experienced the loss of the firstborn. The firstborn in the Israelite families were protected from death by the lambs' blood on their door posts. That certainly should have cemented the Israelites' faith in God!

Many of those very people also experienced the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea. They then began complaining in earnest and went on to sin by worshiping the golden calf. They knew it was God who had protected them and provided for them, yet they wanted a graven image to worship like the nations around them. Nothing suited them! Throughout their history in the Bible, the children of Israel vacillated between periods of

faithfulness to God and periods of idolatry. They had reason to be ashamed of their infidelity to God.

Are people in our day immune to being fickle to God? Today there are Christians who are not satisfied with the simplicity of worship that God has put in place for the church, so they seek the entertainment of more worldly worship. Some are ashamed of the simple gospel as given in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 in the New Testament.

No doubt, the woman at the well was shamed in public every day. Why else would she go to the well in the mid-day heat? What must it have been like to be sick (as was Simon's mother-in-law), for Jesus to take your hand—and be instantly made well? Those in chronic pain, the demon possessed, those with seizures, paralysis, leprosy, blind, lame – how did they react when Jesus healed them? Their shame in begging changed to joy and praise when their health was restored.

In the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life," George Bailey was frustrated that his life was not turning out the way he planned. He was ashamed of the failure he thought he was. When George was facing financial ruin, he wished he had never been born and wanted to end his own life.

However, Clarence, his "guardian angel," showed him what his family and fellow citizens would have gone through if he, George Bailey, had never been born. He saw what other people's lives would have been like. His brother would have drowned in freezing water. Instead, he grew up to become an airplane pilot. Young George's boss (a pharmacist) would have gone to prison. The people in his town would have lived in slums if he had not loaned them money through his family's savings and loan business. What about your life? What about my life? Who would have been adversely affected if we had never been born or had chosen the way of the world rather than following Jesus?

Paul's life as a Christian was not easy. He described it this way in 2 Timothy 4:7, *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.* Further, he wrote in Romans 1:16, *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.* He later wrote in 2 Timothy 1:12, *...I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.*

In our day and time, Christians in Afghanistan must hide to survive; but they are not ashamed of Christ. In the days of heavy persecution at the end of the first century and beyond, Christians fled and hid, yet they managed to

meet secretly and encourage one another. Many in those days were martyred for their faith, yet they never renounced Jesus, their Savior. Most of the apostles died as martyrs for their faith.

If we are ashamed of belonging to Christ, He will be ashamed of us and will deny us on the day of judgment. The latter part of Isaiah 49:23 says, *Those who wait for me shall **not** be put to shame (emphasis added).*

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, Missouri



No Need to be Ashamed with the Right Focus

When I was working, I had a page of inspirational sayings posted on my wall. One of the sayings was, “If you’re worried, pray; if you have prayed, don’t worry.” I must confess that when my focus falls to current world events, I often find myself in a state of worry. I am saddened with the evil we hear about, and I am worried about my children and grandchildren.

The world is in such turmoil. I find myself saying, “This is so wrong: men competing against women in sports because they have decided to identify as female; abortions allowed up to the day of birth; school systems saying that they are primary (and parents are secondary) in educating our children in doctrines that are stealing the innocence of our children in many so ways (Critical Race Theory, gender identification, sexual awareness). What??”

Then I am reminded of words from God, such as: *He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.* Proverbs 17:15:

And Isaiah 5:20-24:

*²⁰ Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!
²¹ Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes,
And prudent in their own sight!
²² Woe to men mighty at drinking wine,
Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink,
²³ Who justify the wicked for a bribe,
And take away justice from the righteous man!
²⁴ Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble,
And the flame consumes the chaff,
So their root will be as rotteness,
And their blossom will ascend like dust;
**Because they have rejected the law of the LORD of
hosts,
And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.***

Striving to live a Christ-like life and fighting the evil of the world are callings of the child of God and will be so to the day when Christ comes back and calls God’s children home. So where do I start??

From my statement in paragraph 1, I must change my focus. My focus needs to be first on God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. By spending time in the Word, I hear from (listen to) God, which helps me to not make the mistake of those above who rejected the law and despised the word. I learn—

- To revere God: Proverbs 1:7a, *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.*
- To trust God: Proverbs 3:5-6, *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.*
- To know God: John 17:3, *And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*
- To be known by God – a “must” to a child of God, (check out Matt 7:21-23): Galatians 4:9 *But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?*

Fortifying myself in His word helps me to persevere in the fight against evil and provides me with the peace that comes only from God. Isaiah 26:3 “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed, because he trusts in you.” God, Creator of the world, has always been, is, and always will be in control. He uses all things to bring our thoughts and minds and hearts to a steadfast longing for Him. God is faithful.

So, I pray for forgiveness in the lost opportunities of the past. In the past to ward off depression from the evils in this world, I would find myself singing, “This world is not my home, I’m just a passing through...” My thought became more of a I won’t have to stay in this evil.

When my focus is on God (by meditating on the things above), the peace of God takes over. I still can sing the song that this world is not my home, but with the renewed focus on God/Christ. I must move out in faith to share with the lost world the one talent that every child of God has—the knowledge of how to become a child of God. Then, this world is not their home either.

The world is in darkness and desperately needs His Light. Use your mouth to tell others what He has done for you, use your actions to show Him in your life, and use your

life to share Him with the world. Never be ashamed of Him or His word.

Someday this world will come to an end. Every second, every beat of my heart, draws me closer home. As children of God, we know that the victory already belongs to Christ; through Him, the victory belongs to God's children who stay faithful to the end. Glory be to God forever and ever.

Kathy Webber, Rolla, Missouri

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AM I ASHAMED OR UNASHAMED?

In Jesus' own words in Luke 9:26, He says, "If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His Father's glory with the holy angels." Paul says in Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel for it (the gospel) is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes, first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."

It is very plain that if I am in any way ashamed of Jesus' gospel, I will lose my soul. "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 who 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 1:8.

Apostle John wrote in 1 John 4:18, "There is no fear in love. Perfect love casts out fear." Fear should have no part in our Christian life, but somehow fear is still there. Are we afraid of rejection? Are we afraid to talk to others about their souls? Obedience to the gospel is the way to salvation.

We must be bold to tell others the truth about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul wrote in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8, "And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with His powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power."

Paul comforted the Thessalonian Christians because they were undergoing severe persecution. He comforted them by telling them their persecutors will suffer

punishment in hell, separated from the Lord God for eternity. His words warn people who do not know God at all or refuse to acknowledge Him, and who have not obeyed the gospel. There are only two reasons anyone will be lost: (1) If I don't acknowledge God, I am lost. (2) If I do not obey the gospel, I am lost.

What is the gospel that I am to obey? 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 gives us the answer: "Now brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, *if* you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received, I passed on to you as of first importance (preeminence), that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day, according to the scriptures..." Paul is referring to the Old Testament scriptures that told the prophets of old that this event, which could only be seen with eyes of faith, was going to happen in the future.

The most important question to ask is, how do I obey the gospel? Romans 6:3-7 tells us how. "Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death. We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection." The word "if" is a small word with a big meaning!

I must never be ashamed of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ—that He died for me, was buried, and then rose on the third day. And I must never be ashamed to tell others how to obey that gospel in baptism.

Mary Anna Melton, Rolla, Missouri

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