

The Grapevine

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15
Number 255

Holding Forth the Word of Life

By Jack Northart

The dictionary defines embarrassment as... " a feeling of self-consciousness, shame, or awkwardness." OR "a person or thing causing embarrassment."

For our purposes here today, I will use this word as an adjective that describes a feeling of self-consciousness, shame or awkwardness.

Regardless of how you see yourself before God today, there has probably been a time in your life when discussing the things of God may have caused you some uneasiness, some embarrassment. It may have been from not really knowing or understanding something from God's Word, which may have led to feeling inadequate about the things of God. However, you may have come to the realization that hearing, believing and studying God's Word will nullify and eliminate embarrassment.

Romans 10:11

For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

That means, Everyone who believes on Jesus Christ will not be put to shame by disappointed expectations. What is the context of this statement? Let's start by reading verse 9, then 10.

Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Verse 10

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

What a wonderful thing! God promises that if anyone believes, they will be saved. In this instance, it is complete salvation and wholeness. Nothing lacking. So, how do we build the greatness of what God has done for us in Christ?

Romans 10:11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed [Greek = *kataischunō*].

Thayer's Greek Dictionary defines this word *kataischunō* as:

1) to dishonour, disgrace

2) to put to shame, make ashamed

2a) to be ashamed, blush with shame

2b) one is said to be put to shame who suffers a repulse, or whom some hope has deceived

After the believing on these things from these verses, God guarantees salvation, wholeness, completeness.... without **ANY EMBARRASSMENT, dishonor, disgrace or shame**. There is nothing missing. But we must now set out to see what is written about our salvation and what it entails.

Starting with one of the greatest ways that this can be accomplished is by memorizing or "retemorizing" verses of Scripture. To retemorize is a much better way to describe this process because it means not only to say or learn verses by memory, but also to understand what they mean. As we do this, the fear of embarrassment evaporates into thin air.

For example, let's start with a verse in I Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 1:30

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption

After we are saved and have the spirit of God in Christ born within us, we have these things in verse 30 included in our salvation and wholeness. To understand this verse is to understand the meaning of the words. Let us start with the word, "wisdom."

Wisdom - Speaking of the wisdom that comes from above, from God. What does it say in the Bible about this kind of wisdom?

James 3:17

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

That's wisdom from God. So to understand this in greater detail, we can repeat these verses in our minds over and over. Then we will begin to see its benefit, its profitable use in our lives.

Now let's look at the word, "righteousness" from I Corinthians 1:30.

Righteousness - Thayer defines this word as " integrity, virtue, purity of life, justness, rightness, correctness of thinking, feeling, and acting."

God has given us this wonderful state. This is rightfully ours to claim.

Romans 14:17

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Here righteousness is included with peace and joy, that begins to manifest itself as we operate the gift of holy spirit. **(See I Corinthians 12:7-11 for the manifestations of the spirit)**. Furthermore, the person who serves God by operating these manifestations is described in the following verse in Romans.

Verse 18

For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

This is amazing! The fact that when we operate the gift of holy spirit in service to Christ in this manner, it is well pleasing to God and approved by men. That is certainly NOT embarrassing!

Now let's look at the next word in I Corinthians 1:30, which is "sanctification."

Sanctification - The Greek word that this is translated from is "**hagiasmos**" and means "To separate from the common lot." or to "purify and cause to make holy." God has done this for us and to us. Set us apart and made us holy.

2 Thessalonians 2:13

But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification [*Gr: hagioismos*] of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

It is through the belief in the truth of God's Word that sanctification becomes ours. Can't change it... and there is NO EMBARRASSMENT from this great truth of who we are! And the last word that we can look at from I Corinthians 1:30 is the word, "redemption."

Redemption - The Mounce Concise Greek/English dictionary defines this as "procured by the payment of a ransom."

Jesus Christ paid for all debts and sin, and consequently bought us back from Satan's power and influence.

Wow! When we look at these wonderful verses about some of the things that God has done for us through the accomplished work of Jesus Christ, it is truly amazing. For all that God is... creator of the universe, He included us in His plans.

God poured out wisdom which is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Then he made us righteous, which means that He gave us integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking, feeling, and acting.

Included in this marvelous package, He gave us sanctification, which means He separated us from the common lot, He purified and caused us to be made holy.

Also included in this package is redemption. Which means that He procured by the payment of a ransom, which was the sacrifice of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. This was the highest possible price that could be paid, and God did it. How wonderful this is! All sin has been paid for, and we will never again be subject to condemnation.

Do we have anything to be embarrassed about? No, we don't. But we do have everything to be shouting from the roof tops! We are proud to be called children of the Most High God! Let us spend time working in these wonderful things in our hearts and minds, and then what we have obtained from God through Christ will begin to manifest itself to others. The world needs to see what God has done for them, and we are the ones who are let our light shine to them, to hold forth God's Word so that they may see it.

Philippians 2:15-16 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

God bless you