

This particular point is a bit subjective but in the light of the apostolic commission in vs. 11, it seems plain that those who know the Gospel are the servants of the Gospel. If we do not declare it, we may properly suggest that it will not be declared. This should make one stop and think that, in the light of all it has and does mean to us, we should be ready to mean something to it...to be ready to stand for its truth and as necessary, to be "partaker in the afflictions of the Gospel according to the power of God."

3. Conclusion

We used to say that one of the best ways to keep warm was to sit by the fire. Certainly one of the best ways to maintain a firm spiritual life is to stand by the means whereby it is given us...to be committed and completely unashamed of the Gospel.

C. Honor the Purpose of Your Calling

2 Timothy 1, emphasis on vs. 9

1. Introductory notes

There are many things that help maintain one's continued spiritual warmth in his particular surroundings. A good point is to have before us the aim by which we are called and the end to which we are called. These appear to be absolutely vital to our progress in this Christian life. But if we forget the purpose and our movement towards that end, we may well overlook the means that lead to that point. What we press for in this discussion is the individual seeking to be in fact what he is declared to be in the calling of Scripture. Our aim is to stress that we should seek to be what, indeed, we are!

2. Discussion

a. To what are we called? To holiness!

It is, we are told, a holy calling given us in Christ Jesus before the world began and now made known