

PASSING THE
FAITH
To the Next Generation



“Courage Under Fire.”

March 22, 2026

Text: *2 Timothy 1:6-18*

Pastor Bob Erbig

Introduction

Faith is always personal — but it is never private. Paul writes to Timothy from a Roman prison with urgency: the Gospel cannot stay quiet.

The Tension

How do we respond when our faith costs us? Pushback is real — in workplaces, classrooms, social media, and homes. Paul gives Timothy — and us — three action steps.

Big Idea

When our faith costs us, God calls us to Fan the Flame, Shun the Shame, and Break the Chain.

Point 1 — Fan the **FLAME** (2 Tim 1:6–7)

“For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God...” — 2 Tim 1:6

Paul's command is present tense — an ongoing action. The Spirit may be smoldering under pressure, but the fire is not out. Keep fanning.

GOD GAVE US A SPIRIT OF:

- Power (dunamis) — strength for Gospel witness
- Love (agape) — others-focused, unconditional
- Self-control (sōphronismos) — steadiness under fire
- Not Fear (deilia) — moral cowardice. That is never from God.

APPLICATION

- Where is fear silencing your witness? Name it.
- Where is God calling you to fan the flame — at work, online, at home?

Point 2 — Shun the **SHAME** (2 Tim 1:8–14)

“But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed...” — 2 Tim 1:12

Paul uses epaischynomai (“not ashamed”) three times. In Rome's honor-shame culture, confessing Christ was social disgrace. The same pressure exists today.

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THE GOSPEL IS THE ANCHOR FOR COURAGEOUS WITNESS (VV. 9–10):

- Saved by grace alone — not by works
- Called by the Spirit — it is all of God
- Purposed before the ages — election
- Victorious — Christ abolished death

APPLICATION

- Guard the good deposit (v. 14) — don't compromise the Gospel to avoid shame.
- Who needs you to be a co-sufferer (v. 8)? Step toward them, not away.

Point 3 — Break the **CHAIN** (2 Tim 1:15–18)

"...he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, but...searched for me earnestly and found me." — 2 Tim 1:16b–17

Phygelus and Hermogenes deserted Paul — the chain of fear held them. Onesiphorus, a layman, broke the chain and sought out Paul in prison at personal risk.

APPLICATION — BE AN ONESIPHORUS:

- Workplace: Speak up when a faithful colleague is silenced.
- Social media: Would anyone know you are a Christian?
- Dinner table: Stop avoiding faith conversations.
- Campus: Learn to defend your faith — break the chain of capitulation.

Conclusion — On That Day

"...may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!" — 2 Tim 1:18

One day every believer stands before Jesus Christ. Will he see people who fanned the flame, shunned the shame, and broke the chain when it cost something?

For 175 years, MBC has been filled with Onesiphorus-people — men and women who stood for Biblical truth, unashamed. May we carry that legacy forward.

Clarity for the mind. Confidence for the soul. Courage for faithful living.

4-Day Bible Reading Plan

Day 1 — Mon: 2 Tim 1:6–7 | Fan the Flame — Where is God calling you to greater boldness?

Day 2 — Tue: 2 Tim 1:8–12 | Shun the Shame — How does the Gospel free you from fear of shame?

Day 3 — Wed: 2 Tim 1:13–18 | Break the Chain — Who in your life needs an Onesiphorus right now?

Day 4 — Thu: Romans 1:16 & 1 Peter 4:12–16 | Cross-Reference — Write one area where you will be unashamed this week.

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