

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">I Am Not Ashamed</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Ezra 9:1-7</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">I Am Not Ashamed</h2>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romans 1:16 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” • If Paul could make this bold statement about his relationship to the Gospel then we can assume the opposite may occur – we may be ashamed. <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">I Am Not Ashamed</h2>
	<p>Definitions:</p> <p>“A painful emotion caused by a strong sense of guilt, embarrassment, unworthiness, or disgrace ... A person or thing that brings dishonor, disgrace, or condemnation.” (The American Heritage Dictionary)</p> <p>“The word has overtones of being or feeling worthless” (Vine’s Expository of Biblical Words)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">I Am Not Ashamed</h2>
	<p>Used extensively in the Bible – 251 uses in the American Standard Version (ASV). 53 of those uses are in the New Testament.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">I Am Not Ashamed</h2>
	<p>Biblical Concepts Of Shame:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Man can (or should) be ashamed of some of the things he does <p>Ezra 9:6 – “... O my God, <i>I am ashamed</i> and <i>blush</i> to lift up my face to thee, my God; for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our guiltiness is grown up unto the heavens.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">I Am Not Ashamed</h2>
	<p>Biblical Concepts Of Shame:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rejection of God Isaiah 65:11,13 – “11 But ye that <i>forsake Jehovah</i> ... 13 Therefore thus saith the Lord Jehovah, Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry; behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty; behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be <i>put to shame</i>” <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>

I Am Not Ashamed

Biblical Concepts Of Shame:

- Rejection of God

Jeremiah 8:9 – “The wise men are *put to shame*, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have *rejected the word of Jehovah*; and what manner of wisdom is in them?”

Psalms 129:5 – “Let them be *put to shame* and turned backward, all they that *hate Zion*.”

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I Am Not Ashamed

Biblical Concepts Of Shame:

- Rejection of God

Romans 1:22-23 – “22 Professing themselves to be wise, *they became fools*, 23 and *changed the glory of the incorruptible God* for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.”

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I Am Not Ashamed

Biblical Concepts Of Shame:

- The Unjust

Zephaniah 3:5 – “Jehovah in the midst of her is righteous; he will not do iniquity; every morning doth he bring his justice to light, he faileth not; but *the unjust knoweth no shame*.”

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Biblical Concepts Of Shame:

- Idolaters

Psalms 97:6-7 – “6 The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the peoples have seen his glory. 7 Let all them be *put to shame* that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him, all ye gods.”

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Biblical Concepts Of Shame:

- The Slothful

Proverbs 10:5 – “He that gathereth in summer is a wise son; (But) he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth *shame*.”

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Biblical Concepts Of Shame:

- Even nations can (or should) have shame

Zephaniah 2:1-3 – “1 Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, *O nation that hath no shame*; 2 before the decree bring forth, (before) the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of Jehovah come upon you, before the day of Jehovah's anger come upon you. 3 Seek ye Jehovah, all ye meek of the earth, that have kept his ordinances; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye will be hid in the day of Jehovah's anger.”

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I Am Not Ashamed

There are things man should not be ashamed of:

- **God's Word**

Psalms 22:5 – “They *cried unto thee*, and were *delivered*: they trusted in thee, and were *not put to shame*.”

Hebrews 4:12 – “For the word of God is *living, and active*, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and *quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart*.”¹³

I Am Not Ashamed

There are things man should not be ashamed of:

- **Permitted Actions**

Genesis 2:25 – “And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were *not ashamed*.”

They didn't even have the concept that they should be ashamed. They were living the way God commanded them.

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I Am Not Ashamed

There are things man should not be ashamed of:

- **Permitted Actions**

Psalms 119:46 – “I will also speak of thy testimonies before kings, and shall not be put to shame.”

We should never be ashamed to stand up for the Word of God and to proclaim it publicly.

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I Am Not Ashamed

Our lives can be lived shamefully

Jeremiah 6:15 – “Were they *ashamed* when they had committed abomination? nay, they were *not at all ashamed, neither could they blush*; therefore they shall fall among them that fall; at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith Jehovah.”

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Our lives can be lived shamefully

1 Timothy 4:1-2 – “1 But the Spirit saith expressly, that in later times some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 through the hypocrisy of men that speak lies, *branded in their own conscience* as with a hot iron”

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I Am Not Ashamed

Our lives can be lived shamefully

- We place ourselves in shameful situations

- **Consciously**

- We know “better”

- “What can I get away with?”

- “Be careful little eyes ... ears ... mouth ... hands ... feet”

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I Am Not Ashamed

Our lives can be lived shamefully

- We place ourselves in shameful situations
 - Consciously
 - We can determine what our actions are
 - How do we consider our actions?
 - Unconsciously
 - We just don't think
 - Employment, vacations, etc.
- Do we examine all we do?

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I Am Not Ashamed

We mustn't consider our lives useless, without purpose

Jeremiah 20:14-18 – “14 Cursed be the day wherein I was born: let not the day wherein my mother bare me be blessed. 15 Cursed be the man who brought tidings to my father, saying, A man-child is born unto thee; making him very glad. 16 And let that man be as the cities which Jehovah overthrew, and repented not: and let him hear a cry in the morning, and shouting at noontime; 17 because he slew me not from the womb; and so my mother would have been my grave, and her womb always great. 18 Wherefore came I forth out of the womb to see labor and sorrow, that my days should be consumed with shame?”

I Am Not Ashamed

We mustn't consider our lives useless, without purpose

Jeremiah apparently became depressed

I Kings 19:14, 18 – “14 And he said, I have been very jealous for Jehovah, the God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away ... 18 Yet will I leave (me) seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.”

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Conclusion:

Romans 1:15-17 – “15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you also that are in Rome. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is revealed a righteousness of God from faith unto faith: as it is written, But the righteous shall live by faith.”

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Conclusion:

Philippians 1:12-14 – “12 Now I would have you know, brethren, that the things (which happened) unto me have fallen out rather unto the progress of the gospel; 13 so that my bonds became manifest in Christ throughout the whole praetorian guard, and to all the rest; 14 and that most of the brethren in the Lord, being confident through my bonds, are more abundantly bold to speak the word of God without fear.”

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Conclusion:

I Thessalonians 5:22 – “14 And we exhort you, brethren, admonish the disorderly, encourage the fainthearted, support the weak, be longsuffering toward all. 15 See that none render unto any one evil for evil; but always follow after that which is good, one toward another, and toward all. 16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus to you-ward. 19 Quench not the Spirit; 20 despise not prophesyings; 21 prove all things; hold fast that which is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil.”

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