

The Ministry Medical

No. 5: Are you ashamed or are you suffering?

⁸ So **do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel**, by the power of God. ⁹ He 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. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² **That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed,**

1. Are we all in?
2. Are we listening to persecuted brothers?
3. Who are we most worried about?
 - a. “Men from James”
 - b. Religious authorities and extremists
 - c. State
 - d. Society / community
4. Have we faced the offensiveness of the gospel?

Crucifixion
Rescue religion for condemned humanity
Non-retaliation and forgiveness towards enemies
Grace and forgiveness towards outcasts
Pride-destroying, become like children
Refusal to worship the gods of society
Conversion and freedom of conscience
Trans-cultural allegiance
Rigorous sexual ethic and pro-life concern
Governed by a unchangeable written text

5. Have we re-framed the disgrace of the gospel?
 - a. Christ-centred
 - b. His prisoner
 - c. His soldier
 - d. Saved
 - e. Justified