

- And - He Appealed To:
 - The Senses Of Faithful:
 - Not Unlike:
 - The Woman He Met Earlier:
 - By The Name Of:
 - Wanton!
- This Old Man:
 - Even Offered Faithful:
 - His Three Daughters:
 - To Be His Wives!
 - And - What Were Their Names?
 - As Found In 1 John 2:16:
 - Their Names Were:
 - Lust Of The Eyes!
 - Lust Of The Flesh! And:
 - The Pride Of Life!
- Of Course:
 - Christian Too Was Tempted To Sinful Delight:
 - By These Three:
 - But - It Seems:
 - That Faithful Was More Susceptible:
 - To These Sensual Desires!
 - And - The Devil Knew This:
 - And Kept Attacking Him:
 - At His Weakest Point!
 - And This Is Something We Need To Remember:
 - In Our Own Christian Pilgrimage!
 - The Devil Will Keep Attacking You:
 - At Your Weakest Point!
 - And - If You Know That:
 - This Is One Of His Devices:
 - What Should You Do With Those Weaknesses?
 - Put Your Strongest Guards:
 - At Your Weakest Points:
 - Without Leaving Anything Left Un-Guarded!
- Well - As We Read:
 - God Gave Him His Word:
 - Just Like He Did For Christian:
 - To Fight Against This Temptation!
- And - Even Though:
 - Faithful Made It Through This Temptation:
 - That Old Man Still Pursued Him:
 - With All He Had!
 - And - This Still Happens To Us Today!
 - Which Is Why Paul Tells Us In:
 - Ephesians 4:22-24 - “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; / And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; / And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness!”

* The Second Trial & Temptation Was:

2. *The Temptation Of Sinful Despair!*

- This Is What He Faced:
 - When He Met That One Who Came After Him:
 - “Swift As The Wind” - And Who:
 - Knocked Him Down Over & Over Again!
- That Man:
 - Was Called Moses - And:

- Represents The Law Of God:
 - And Its Conviction Of Sin:
 - In The Lives & Hearts Of Believers!
- He Kept Knocking Faithful Down - Three Times:
 - Because - As Faithful Said:
 - “Of My Secret Inclining To Adam The First!”
 - Oh, How We Need To Listen:
 - To The Ongoing Conviction Of God:
 - Through His Spirit And Through His Word & Law!
 - Sadly - Too Many Christians:
 - Ignore This Ministry:
 - Of God’s Word!
 - But - It Is Designed By God:
 - To Awaken Us Out Of Our Sins And Our Slumber:
 - And To Cause Us To Run Back To Jesus!
 - But - It Was Never Meant:
 - To Lead You To Despair!
 - Because - Lying On His Back:
 - “As Dead”:
 - Someone Came By And “Bid Him Forbear!”
 - Of Course - Faithful Identifies Him:
 - As Their Lord - The Lord Of The Hill!
 - He Is The Only One Who Can:
 - Cry “Peace, Be Still” - When:
 - The Storms Of Your Conscience And Guilt Swirl Around In Your Heart:
 - And - Make It Once Again - Into A Great Calm!

* The Third Trial & Temptation Was:

3. *The Temptation Of Sinful Discontent!*

- This Is What He Faced:
 - When He Met The Man:
 - By That Same Name!
 - This Meeting Was:
 - In The Valley Of Humiliation:
 - Where Christian Fought With Apollyon!
- And This Man:
 - Tried To Get Faithful:
 - To Go Back:
 - Because There Was No “Honor” To Be Found:
 - In That Valley!
 - But - Once Again:
 - God Gave Him His Word:
 - To Show Him:
 - The True Nature Of The Valley Of Humiliation!
 - As Faithful Put It:
 - Quoting From The Book Of Proverbs:
 - Both 15:33 & 18:12 - “Before Honor Is Humility!”
 - So - There Is Honor In The Valley!
 - Its Just Found:
 - In A Different Way:
 - Than The World Thinks!
 - Even As Jesus Taught Us:
 - In The Beattitudes:
 - Matthew 5:3-5 - “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. / Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. / Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth!”

* But Then We Come To Faithful’s Fourth Trial & Temptation - Which Was:

4. *The Temptation Of Sinful Denial!*

- This Is What He Faced:
 - When He Met The Man:
 - With The Name Of Shame!
 - But - As Both Faithful & Christian Pointed Out:
 - He “Bears The Wrong Name!”
 - It Was The Wrong Name:
 - Not Because:
 - He Did Not Try To Get Faithful:
 - To Feel Shame!
 - But Because:
 - He Had No Shame Himself:
 - In So Doing!
- And - I Think Bunyan Hits On:
 - A Trial & A Temptation:
 - That Most Of Us Probably Know:
 - All Too Well - Even Though:
 - We Have A Hard Time Identifying It Sometimes!
 - Now - We All Know What Shame Is!
 - It Is The Feeling Of Embarrassment:
 - When We Are Caught Doing Or Saying Or Thinking Something:
 - That Goes Against Either Our Own Conscience - Or:
 - Goes Against The Conventions Of The People Around Us!
- And Shame:
 - When Directed Towards:
 - The Right Object:
 - Can Be A Good Thing - And:
 - A Healthy Thing!
 - In Ezra 9:5-7:
 - We Have An Example Of Good Shame:
 - When Ezra Wrote - “And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God, / And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over [our] head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens. / Since the days of our fathers [have] we [been] in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, [and] our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as [it is] this day!”
 - Ezra Was Ashamed Of:
 - His Own Sin & Guilt - As Well As:
 - The Guilt Of His People!
 - And That’s A Good & Healthy Shame!
- But - When Shame:
 - Is Not Felt:
 - Over The Right Things, Or At The Right Times:
 - That Is An Unhealthy Condition:
 - For A Soul To Be In!
 - In Jeremiah 6:15:
 - We Have An Example Of An Unhealthy **Lack** Of Shame!
 - “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 the LORD!”
 - And What Was One Cause Of:
 - This Lack Of Shame?
 - Jeremiah 6:14 - “They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace!”
- Doesn’t This Sound A Lot Like:
 - What The World Tries To Do:

- When The Conscience Of One Of Her Own:
 - Starts To Feel Conviction?
 - It Tries To “Heal” That “Hurt” By Saying “Peace, Peace, When There Is No Peace!”
- The Lack Of Good Shame:
 - Is Unhealthy & Dangerous:
 - To A Person’s Soul!
- But Then - There Can Also Be:
 - As Bunyan Describes It:
 - It Here:
 - A Shame That Is Directed Towards:
 - The Wrong Object!
 - And This Can Be As Bad Or Worse:
 - Than Having No Shame At All!
- And - This Is The Kind Of Shame:
 - That The Character Shame:
 - Was Trying To Awaken:
 - In The Heart Of Faithful!
 - To Get Him To Be Ashamed:
 - Of Those Things That Are:
 - Good And Right!
 - The Things That Are Of God!
- Faithful Told Christian:
 - About All The Different Ways:
 - Shame Tried To Shame Him!
- He Tried To Shame Faithful:
 - Over His:
 - Devotion To Christ!
 - Shame “Objected Against Religion Itself; He Said It Was A Pitiful, Low, Sneaking Business For A Man To Mind Religion!”
 - Has This Happened To You?
- He Also Tried To Shame Faithful:
 - Over His:
 - Discipline For Christ!
 - Shame Continued - “That For A Man To Watch Over His Words And Ways . . . Would Make Him The Ridicule Of The Times!”
 - Has This Happened To You?
- He Then Tried To Shame Faithful:
 - Over The:
 - Disciples Of Christ!
 - Shame Added - “Few Of The Mighty, Rich, Or Wise, Were Ever Of [Faithful’s] Opinion!” - And Instead:
 - They Were “Base And Low” And Were Known For Their “Ignorance, And Want Of Understanding In All Natural Science!”
 - Has This Happened To You?
- He Even Tried To Shame Faithful:
 - Over The:
 - Doctrines Of Christ!
 - By Telling Faithful - In No Uncertain Terms - That “It Was A Shame To Sit Whining And Mourning Under A Sermon, And A Shame To Come Sighing And Groaning Home; That It Was A Shame To Ask My Neighbor Forgiveness For Petty Faults, Or To Make Restitution Where I Have Taken From Any!”
- Shame Was So Convincing:
 - That - For A Time:
 - He Caused Faithful:
 - To Start To *Feel* Ashamed:
 - Even Of Those Things That Were Good And Right!
 - Faithful Said:

- "I Could Not Tell What To Say At First! Yea, He Put Me So To It, That My Blood Came Up In My Face!"
- Has This Happened To You?
 - Has The World Itself:
 - Caused You To Become Ashamed:
 - Of The Things Of God!
- What Can Be Done?
 - Remember The Truth:
 - About Those Things:
 - That The World Wants You:
 - To Be Ashamed Of!
 - When It Comes To The Things Of God:
 - There Is Absolutely Nothing:
 - To Be Ashamed Of!
- You Don't Need To Be Ashamed:
 - Of Your Devotion To Christ!
 - Because - As John Tells Us:
 - In 1 John 2:28 - "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming!"
 - You Are Preparing For:
 - The Coming Of The Lord!
 - You Don't Need To Be Ashamed:
 - Of Your Discipline For Christ!
 - Because - As Peter Tells Us:
 - In 1 Peter 3:16 - "Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ!"
 - What Matters Most - What The Lord Thinks Of You Or What The World Thinks Of You!
 - You Don't Need To Be Ashamed:
 - Of The Disciples Of Christ!
 - Because - As Paul Tells Us:
 - In 1 Corinthians 1:26-27 - "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: / But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty!"
 - You Don't Need To Be Ashamed:
 - Of The Doctrines Of Christ:
 - As Found In His Word - Because In It You Find:
 - The Gospel Truth Itself!
 - Which Is Why Paul Could Say, In Romans 1:16 - "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth!"
 - And - The Truth You Find:
 - In Every Other Part Of God's Word:
 - Lends Itself To The Credibility:
 - Of The Gospel!

Conclusion:

1. You Don't Need To Be Ashamed:
 - Of God & His Gospel - Or:
 - Of Your Love For Him:
 - And His Word - And Even:
 - His Service!
2. Don't Let Shame:
 - Silence You:
 - In Your Faith - Because:
 - Christian Faith:
 - Is The Wrong Thing:

- To Be Ashamed Of!

3. Instead - Remember:

- And Seek To Follow After:

- The Words Of Paul In:

- 2 Timothy 1:12 - "I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day!"

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