

PREACH THE WORD

2 Timothy 4:1-5

INTRODUCTION

One Sunday morning, a mother went in to wake her son and tell him it was time to get ready for church, to which he replied, “I’m not going.”

“Why not?” she asked.

“I’ll give you two good reasons,” he said.

“One, they don’t like me, and two, I don’t like them.”

His mother replied, “I’ll give YOU two good reasons why you SHOULD go to church. One, you’re 54 years old, and two, you’re the pastor!”

This could have been Timothy after reading 2 Timothy 4:1-5.

TRANSITION

In verses three and four, the Apostle Paul predicted that an increasing number of Ephesian church-goers will not like Timothy’s preaching.

APOSTASY WILL INCREASE

2 TIMOTHY 4:3-4 (ESV)

⊗ *³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,*

⊗ *⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*

Apostasy, turning away from the truth of God’s Word, was going to increase in the Ephesian church. That meant Timothy and his teaching would be welcomed in some house churches, but not in others. Some house churches rallied around “their” teacher because he or she told them what they wanted to hear. Undoubtedly Timothy walked into some hostile house churches where he had to rebuke his brothers and sisters for abandoning

God's Word. It was a hard, discouraging ministry to which Timothy was called.

This continues to be a problem to this present hour.



At this very hour, there are massive churches filled with tens of thousands lapping up the health, wealth, and prosperity gospel.



Other church-goers desiring to be accepted by the culture continue to compromise the truth of God's revealed Word. It particularly started with accepting evolution and now continues in the form of the Woke Church Movement.

In light of this coming increase in apostasy, what was Timothy to do?

PREACH THE WORD!

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-2 (ESV)

- ⊗ *¹I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:*
- ⊗ *²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.*

Here was the Apostle Paul's counsel to Timothy:

THE MAIN IDEA OF 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5

- ⊗ *Though desire for God's Word would decrease and opposition to it increase, Paul charged Timothy to persist in preaching the Word with*

authority and to fulfill his ministry for which he will be judged by Jesus.

But if people in the church don't want the accurate teaching of God's Word, why should Timothy or any teacher persist? The answer is found in verse one.

2 TIMOTHY 4:1 (ESV)

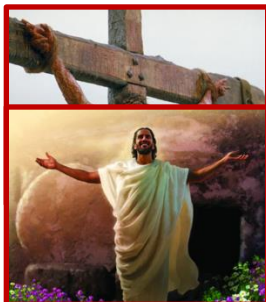
⊗ *I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:*

⊗ The reason Timothy should persist is because of the need. Every human being is going to be judged by Jesus Christ

The reason Timothy should persist is because of the need. Every human being is going to be judged by Jesus Christ whether it be the spiritually dead at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15) or the spiritually living at the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:1-10). Only through preaching God's Word is the reality of judgment made known and only through preaching God's Word is the way of salvation made known.



We all come into this world separated from God; we are spiritually dead. In our separation from God, we live for ourselves and sin against God. If we are not reconciled to God in this life, we will be judged by Jesus at the Great White Throne Judgment and be condemned to the Lake of Fire for eternity.



But we can be reconciled to God if we want a relationship with Him. If we will accept by faith that Jesus died on the cross to pay for all our sins

and that He rose again on the third day, all our sins will be forgiven and we will be reconciled to God.



We will still be judged by Jesus, but at the Judgment Seat of Christ which will be either for reward or for rebuke.

We need the preaching of God's Word to be saved from eternal death and we need the preaching of God's Word that we might receive salvation "with glory" (2 Tim. 2:10; Rom. 8:17).

At a personal level, preaching the Word was the ministry entrusted to Timothy by Jesus. Whether people wanted his preaching or not, Timothy needed to persist in preaching the Word because he will one day stand before Jesus at the Judgment Seat of Christ and give account for his Christian life.

So, Timothy, and by extension, all Bible teachers need to persist in accurately teaching the Bible. The need is great: every human being is going to be judged by Jesus. And Bible teachers are going to give an account to Jesus for their ministries.

2 TIMOTHY 4:2 (ESV)

✘ *²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.*

In verse two, the phrase "be ready in season and out of season" means to persist (in preaching the Word) in favorable times and unfavorable times. In other words, Paul is telling Timothy to preach the Word no matter if the house church he's teaching welcomes his teaching or doesn't. He needs to preach the Word accurately and with authority no matter the attitude of the audience. As Paul explained in verses three and four, Timothy could expect an increase in unfavorable times.

2 TIMOTHY 4:3-4 (ESV)

✘ *³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,*

✘ *⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*

But Timothy was a human. Undoubtedly rejection affected him as it would affect us. It had to be discouraging. It is likely in my view that Timothy struggled with depression.

Paul understood. In verse five, Paul encouraged Timothy to not let his emotions control him, but to do what he was called to do.

2 TIMOTHY 4:5 (ESV)

☒ *⁵As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

The phrase “sober-minded” means to keep one’s self in control. The challenge to Timothy was to be led, not by his emotions, but by what he knew to be true.

Doing the work of an evangelist means preaching the way of salvation through faith in Jesus. Paul wanted Timothy to be balanced in his preaching.

APPLICATION

- ☒ Against what do we need to be on guard in the church?
 - ☒ Apostasy. Rejection of Biblical truth driven by a corporate desire to conform to the culture or by individual desires to live self-directed lives.
- ☒ What ultimate reality necessitates the preaching of God’s Word?
 - ☒ Judgment. Every human being is accountable to Jesus, the Creator, and Judge.
- ☒ What must the Elders and family of Grace Church require of our Bible teachers?

- ⊗ Accuracy. A given passage of Scripture has only one correct *interpretation* though it may have several legitimate *applications*. No Bible teacher will be correct 100% of the time, but those who teach the Bible at Grace must be well trained and committed to interpreting Scripture according to a historical-grammatical-literal hermeneutic.
- ⊗ What should be regularly included along with expository preaching?
- ⊗ The Gospel. Every Bible teacher should preach the good news of Jesus so that the spiritually dead might understand the way to be reconciled to God.

GRACE NEWS AND NEEDS

- **Women's Bible Study on Ruth (Childcare provided).**
Wednesday's 10 am-12 noon. July 5th-Aug. 9th
Contact Sharon Plunkett to sign up@760-310-5062
- **Women's Ministry / VOM Event: "Hearts of Fire", Friday, July 14th, 6:30p-9:40p.**
- **Family Movie Night Fundraiser for Chris & Sarah Villanueva's adoption hosted by Bobby & Jaymee Lang. Saturday, July 29th, 8 PM, 2337 Vermont Street. Everyone welcome!**
- **VOM Needs for July: Pack of 11" or longer Zip Ties / Lip balm, ChapStick.**