

THEME: The preacher must preach and the hearer must heed!

2 Timothy 4:1-5

1 I solemnly 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: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

I. Solemn Charge - (vs.1-2)

- A. PREACH - means "to herald" or "proclaim publicly."
- B. BE READY - the idea of urgency, preparedness, and readiness.
- C. REPROVE - affecting the mind; helping a person understand that what they believe is actually false; to refute error and misconduct with careful biblical argument.
- D. REBUKE - affecting the heart; bringing a person under conviction of guilt; has the goal of bringing the erring person to a point of repentance.
- E. EXHORT - to call people to right living; encouragement toward spiritual change.

II. Serious Caution - (vs.3-4)

- A. THEY WILL NOT ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE - They are weedy and rocky soil; tares among the wheat; bad fish vs. good fish; foolish virgins vs. wise virgins; false converts.
- B. THEY WILL ACCUMULATE FOR THEMSELVES TEACHERS - Not content with the man whom God sends to them; they accumulate their own ministers.
- C. THEY WILL TURN AWAY THEIR EARS - Like a child putting their hands over their ears; deliberate and willful.
- D. THEY WILL TURN ASIDE TO MYTHS - Satisfied by content with no merit; worthless religion.

III. Sober Commission - (vs.5)

- A. BE SOBER - literally: "free from intoxicants" or clear-minded; spiritually alert.
- B. ENDURE - to suffer a long time; to suffer evil; to not give in or surrender.

- C. DO - (THE WORK) - active, not passive; it is work most people shy away from it.
- D. FULFILL - giving full measure or to bring to completion.

POINTS OF CONSIDERATION:

- 1. Preaching the word of God lets God speak rather than man, because it declares God's own word rather than man's opinion.**
- 2. Preaching the word of God brings the preacher into direct contact with the mind of the Holy Spirit, the author of Scripture.**
- 3. Preaching the word of God forces the preacher to proclaim all of God's revelation, including those truths that even many believers find hard to grasp or difficult to embrace.**
- 4. Preaching the word of God promotes biblical literacy in a congregation, not only through what is learned from the sermon itself but also through the increased desire to study Scripture more consistently on their own.**
- 5. Preaching the word of God carries ultimate authority.**
- 6. Preaching the word of God will transform both the preacher and the congregation, and will drive unsaved sinners to repentance.**
- 7. Preaching the word of God is the only message the Lord calls and commissions His preachers to proclaim.**

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss why you believe preaching verse-by-verse through the Word of God is necessary and relevant for today's generations.
2. Discuss what it means and why it is important for ministry leaders—and Christians in general—to “be ready in season and out of season.” How does this impact you?
3. Discuss why it is important for church attenders, non-believers, and genuine Christians to be reproved, rebuked, and exhorted from the Scripture?
4. Paul told Timothy to “do the work of an evangelist.” Discuss why you do or do not think this is also a command for all or most Christians today.
5. Paul told Timothy to “fulfill your ministry.” Discuss the ministry(s) God has called you to, and particularly the areas you are struggling with or trying to “fulfill.”