

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

The Word of God is the strongest, most potent weapon God has given to humanity. The Word of God is the only perfect thing on planet Earth.

I remember sitting at a local bar at 1:00am, with a 12-ounce bottle of beer in my hand, thinking, *"I wish this place would hurry up and close so that I can go back to my dorm room and read the Bible some more."*

I read six chapters of the Bible every night, for three months ... most of it after 2:00am while being completely drunk, just before I passed out!

(Hebrews 4:12-13) "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."

To preach anything other than the Word of God is as worthless as showing up to a gun fight with nothing but cotton balls for ammunition! It's like putting a small bandaid on a gaping, mortal wound. And, for a pastor to preach anything other than the Word of God is not only silly, it is foolishness, an affront to God, an exercise in futility, and it's exactly what the devil would want for any church!

READ TEXT: 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.

MAIN POINTS:

- I. **Solemn Charge - (vs.1-2)**
 - II. **Serious Caution - (vs.3-4)**
 - III. **Sober Commission - (vs.5)**
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I. SOLEMN CHARGE - (vs.1-2)

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.

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)

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.

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)

5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

A. BE SOBER

- literally: "free from intoxicants" - clear-minded; spiritually alert.

B. ENDURE

- to suffer a long time; suffer evil; to not give in or surrender.

C. DO - (THE WORK)

- active, not passive; it is work, therefore most people shy away from it.

D. FULFILL

- giving full measure or to bring to completion.

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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.