



Sunday May 28, 2017
2 Timothy Series
Chapter 4 : Preach The Word In And Out of Season

Read 2 Timothy Chapter 4

Preach the Word (vs 1-2)

1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

Preach the Word - this is what we must do as ministers of God.
Be ready in and out of season - whether or not the time is convenient

Convince - to convict, challenge,
Rebuke - to tell a fault, to warn, to censure
Exhort - to invite, encourage

with all patience when teaching - the fact is that people will not "get it" just because they have heard it once. Some things we have to repeat, teach in many different ways, patiently presenting the Word, and giving people time to embrace the truth.

Itching Ears And Teachers of Fables (vs 3-4)

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

"..the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine..." - unfortunately today, people like to hear motivational, feel-good, make-me-feel-happy messages, and shy away from sound teaching of the Word.

People will flock to teachers who speak what they want to listen...they wander away from the truth and follow myths, fables, man-made stories, etc...

What's the danger here?

1, Only when you continue in the Word, will you know the truth which can set you free (John 8:31-32)

2, It is only when we hear and do the Word, that we have a solid foundation, a house built on a rock that can weather the storms (Matthew 7:24-27)

3, It is the Word that sanctifies (John 17:3), that purifies (1 Peter 1:22-23), and builds us up (Acts 20:32)

...and so much more....

So we miss out on all that God seeks to do in us by His Word.

Stay Focused (vs 5)

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



Timothy, don't get distracted by things around you. Be sober, watchful, careful.
Endure hardships. Do shy away from challenges and problems.
Keep proclaiming the good news.
Complete your ministry.

My Journey (vs 6-8)

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.
7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Paul is very aware that he would be martyred soon - his life would be offered up for the sake of the Gospel.

But there is a deep sense of accomplishment (fought a good fight), completion (finished the race), fulfillment (kept the faith), and expectation (a crown laid up for me).

Come quickly (vs 9-11)

9 Be diligent to come to me quickly;
10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica— Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.
11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.

Paul longs to see Timothy soon, since others have left, and only Luke is with Paul.

A sad account of Demas, a fellow-worker of Paul (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 1:24), has now forsaken Paul and the work of the Kingdom, being drawn away by the things of the world.

Interesting to note Paul's change of heart about John Mark, Barnabas' nephew. John Mark had deserted the team on Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 13:13). Paul refused to let John Mark accompany the team on the second missionary journey (Acts 15:36-41).

Things have changed now and Paul wants Timothy to bring John Mark.

Some Matters At Ephesus (vs 12-15)

12 And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.
13 Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments.
14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works.
15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.

Paul requests for his cloak since winter was approaching (vs 21) and books.
Warns Timothy to stay away from the trouble-maker Alexander, the coppersmith.

No One Stood With Me (vs 16-18)

16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.



**17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.
18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!**

Paul shares about his first trial, that took place about two years prior, and how the Lord delivered him from being sentenced to death, and instead used that to proclaim the Gospel. Paul held no grievance against all those who forsook him during his time of hardship. Amazing! We must keep ourselves from all resentment, hatred, bitterness, at all times.

Paul declares His confidence that the Lord will deliver him from every evil work and preserve him for His eternal Kingdom.

The emphasis here is not that he will not suffer, be persecuted, or even be killed. Paul was already going through it and acknowledged that his life would be poured out as a drink offering - a sacrifice, (vs 6). He declares that anything evil that is designed to rob him of His eternal destination will not succeed, but God will preserve him for His eternal kingdom.

It is the same as when we pray "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom" ...this does not mean we will not face any temptation...but we pray for God's strength to help us overcome temptation, so that it will not prevail over us.

Greetings! (vs 19)

19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

Aquila and his wife Priscilla (or here Prisca) were Paul's team who served in Corinth. They were originally from Rome (Romans 16:3) and later joined Paul at Corinth (Acts 18:2). Onesiphorus, Paul mentioned earlier in chapter 1, (2 Timothy 1:16), who served Paul both at Ephesus and at Rome.

Trophimus (vs 20)

20 Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.

This is a strange statement that Paul makes, to acknowledge that he had to leave one of his fellow-workers sick at Miletus. We do not know the sickness, the duration or the outcome. This does not in any way change who God is, or our faith in God's ability or willingness to heal. Paul ministered, just the same way we minister.

Come Before Winter (vs 21-22)

21 Do your utmost to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren.

22 The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

KEY TAKE AWAY

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

Preach the Word in and out of season

MINISTRY TIME



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

2 Timothy Series Chapter 4 :Preach The Word, In And Out of Season

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) available at apcwo.org. You can also review the Sunday Sermon PDF notes. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passage: 2 Timothy chapter 4

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights:

Q1, What are some of the dangerous consequences for the individual believer and for the Church as a whole, if we replace "sound doctrine" with "fables" (vs 3-4)?

Q2, How do we counter or respond to the popular drift in the Church, away from "sound doctrine" to listening to things that appeal to personal desires and interests "itching ears"?

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two main learning from the Scriptures read today and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.



ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and close by thanking God together.