

2 Timothy 4:1-5

8-7-05

“Preach the Word & Reach the World!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. J. I. Packer said, "Certainty about the great issues of the **Christian faith** and **conduct** is lacking all along the line. The outside observer sees us staggering on from gimmick to gimmick and stunt to stunt like so many drunks in a fog, not knowing at all where we are or which way we should be going. - Preaching is hazy; heads are muddled; hearts fret; doubts drain strength; uncertainty paralyzes action....**Unlike** the first Christians who in three centuries won the Roman world, and those later Christians who pioneered the Reformation, and the Puritan awakening and the Evangelical revival, and the great missionary movement of the last century, we lack certainty. **Why is this?** We blame the external pressures of modern secularism, but this is like Eve blaming the serpent. The real truth is that we have grieved the Spirit...we stand under divine judgment. For two generations our churches have suffered from **a famine of hearing the words of the Lord.**"
- 1.2. **Transition of chapters:** Paul telling Timothy to continue in the Word in his own **personal life**; now he exhorts him to **share it with others!**
 - 1.2.1. We must **receive** before we can **transmit**.
 - 1.2.2. We've said, "**get it straight & give it straight!**" [Kent Hughes]

2. **PREACH THE WORD & REACH THE WORLD! (1-5)**

- 2.1. **(1) I charge you before...!**
 - 2.1.1. This isn't a *man to man* charge, but in the very presence of God the Father & Jesus Christ.
 - 2.1.2. Paul calls upon Christ to witness his charge to Timothy, reminding Timothy that Christ would one day return & test his ministry!¹
- 2.2. **Before God & the Lord Jesus!**
 - 2.2.1. Christ is coming again. In view of this you better know your task, & be faithful to it!
- 2.3. **His Appearing! Epiphaneia** was used in **two special ways**.
 - 2.3.1. It was used for the manifest intervention of some god; **and** it was specially used in connection with the Roman Emperor.
 - 2.3.2. His accession to the throne was his *epiphaneia*; and - it was used of his visit to any province or town.

¹ Warren Wiersbe; Outlines of NT.

- 2.3.3. Obviously when the Emperor was due to visit any place, everything was **put in perfect order**. The streets were swept and garnished and all work was brought up-to-date so that the town might be fit for *epiphaneia*.
- 2.3.4. So Paul says to Timothy: "You know what happens when any town is expecting the *epiphaneia* of the Emperor; **you** are expecting the *epiphaneia* of Jesus Christ. **Do your work in such a way that all things will be ready whenever he appears.**"
- 2.3.4.1. So we should so order our life that at any moment we are ready for the coming of Christ. *Daily Study Series*
- 2.4. **PREACH THE WORD! (2)**
- 2.5. **Preach the Word!**
- 2.5.1. It implies **knowing** the word, **rightly dividing** it, & making it **understandable & applicable** to the lives of people.
- 2.5.2. Not preach **your** words!!!
- 2.5.3. The story is told about an **old American Indian** who attended a church service one Sunday morning. The preacher's message lacked real spiritual food, so he did a lot of shouting and pulpit pounding to cover up his lack of preparation. In fact, as it is sometimes said, he "preached up quite a storm." After the service, someone asked the Indian, who was a Christian, what he thought of the minister's message. Thinking for a moment, he summed up his opinion in six words: "High wind. Big thunder. **No rain.**"
- 2.6. **WHEN? – Be ready in season & out of season.**
- 2.6.1. **Be ready** – be prepared, take a stand, carry on, stick to it.
- 2.6.2. **In season & out** - Urgently, & at all times. [When it is convenient & inconvenient] {when you feel like it or don't!}
- 2.6.2.1. We should Always be on duty; & take advantage of every opportunity for service.
- 2.7. **HOW? – Convince, rebuke, exhort.**
- 2.7.1. And do these with **His** Inspired Word, **not your own!**
- 2.7.2. **CONVINCE!**
- 2.7.3. Correct error.
- 2.7.4. Alcibiades used to say of Socrates, "Socrates, I hate you, because every time I meet you, you make me see what I am."²
- 2.7.4.1. Our 1st order of business then, we must compel a man to see himself as he is.
- 2.7.5. **REBUKE!**
- 2.7.6. Not a **people pleaser**, nor a **popularity seeker**, nor a **flatterer**.

- 2.7.7. To not speak so plainly about sin **is like** placing a label that reads “**Essence of Peppermint**” over the true label of the bottle that reads “**Poison**”!
 2.7.7.1. **The milder the label, the more dangerous the poison!**
- 2.7.8. **Q:** How many brothers & sisters could we have saved from **sin & shipwreck** had we warned them?
- 2.7.9. **EXHORT!**
- 2.7.10. Give hope to the fainthearted by giving tender encouragement.
 2.7.10.1. **Early in ministry:** Pastor Gary Ansdel; Chuck letter.
 2.7.10.2. No **rebuke** should ever be such that it drives a man to **despair** & takes the heart of **hope** out of him.
 2.7.10.3. **We must rebuke, but they must also be encouraged!**
- 2.7.11. Spurgeon reminds us that **Aarons Rod & the pot of Manna** always go together (both are in the Ark of the Cov). And he who is God’s servant will be both to your soul!
- 2.7.12. **WITH ALL LONGSUFFERING & TEACHING!**
- 2.7.13. All three of these must be carried out with **great patience & careful instruction**.
 2.7.13.1. Meaning, with a spirit which **never grows irritated, never despairs & never** regards any man **beyond salvation**.
 2.7.13.2. **We hold to the unconquerably changing power of Christ!**³
- 2.7.14. **No one** is capable for this task. - We need a life of **profound dependence** on Him!
- 2.8. **Don’t BREACH THE WORD!** (3,4)
- 2.9. Note the word “**they**” – Paul is warning “*professing*” believers.
 2.9.1. You know Christendom is moving towards an appetite for **error** rather than **truth**.
 2.9.2. As **R. G. Lee** said, “We live in a world of invertebrate theology, jellyfish morality, seesaw religion, rubber convictions, somersault philosophy, and a psychology that tells us what we already know, in words which we do not understand.” [Bread from Bellevue Oven, p. 9]
- 2.10. **Turn from sound doctrine** –
 2.10.1. **Itching ears** – to tickle, to scratch, to feel an itching.
 2.10.1.1. It’s **curiosity** that looks for *interesting bits of information*.
 2.10.1.2. This **itching** is relieved by the messages of the new teachers.⁴

² William Barclay

³ Ibid

⁴ LKGNT; pg.648

- 2.10.1.3. **They're Like my Doberman Rambo:** he runs up to me & stretches out his front legs, & puts his head down to the ground...he knows I'll rub his ears.
- 2.10.1.4. They prefer sermons that tickle their ears instead of cut their hearts.
- 2.10.1.5. "If the people desire a calf to worship, a ministerial calf-maker is readily found." [Marvin R. Vincent, Word Studies in the N T]
- 2.10.2. **Read** Ezek.33:30-32
- 2.10.3. Many today prefer "Entertainment"!
- 2.10.3.1. I'm not an **actor** (though I pray I'm not boring!)
 I'm not here to give **inspirational speeches** (yet I pray they inspire)
 I'm not a **Playwright** (Not going to put on productions Sunday morn)
 I'm not in the **Religious Entertainment Industry**.
 I'm not a **Christian Performer**.
- 2.10.3.1.1. The day it requires more than "**Preaching the Word**" is the day I step aside, & bid my adieu.
- 2.10.3.2. I seek to be like Ezra as he "They **read** from the Book of the Law of God, **making it clear** and **giving the meaning** so that the people could **understand** what was being read." Neh8:8
- 2.10.4. They will **heap up** for themselves teachers – They raise up pastors to suit their own desires.
- 2.10.4.1. All this to satisfy their itching ears, like "Rambo".
- 2.10.4.2. There is such a love for novelty in the churches today.
- 2.10.4.3. Too often the pastor who just **opens the word** of God & **teaches** is ignored, while the **shallow religious entertainer** becomes a celebrity.
- 2.11. Turn to **satanic doctrine** –
- 2.11.1. Turn their ears away from the truth!
- 2.11.1.1. Vs.4 tells us that "**Itching ears**" soon become "**deaf ears**".
- 2.11.1.2. **Saints, Don't fall victim to the latest crazes!** [Have stability, be balanced]
- 2.11.1.3. Remember, it is a revelation of **Jesus Christ!**
- 2.12. **Plato** summed up these men best well. "Hunters after young men of wealth & position, with shame education as their bait, & a fee for their object, making money by a scientific use of quibbles in private conversation, while quite aware that what they are teaching is **wrong**."

- 2.13. **REACH THE WORLD!** (5)
- 2.14. **Be watchful in all things!**
- 2.14.1. "Seek an opportunity of doing them a kindness; let no fair occasion slip, through your negligence. **Watch** your work; **Watch** against the temptations of Satan by which you may be diverted; **Watch** over the souls of those who are committed to your charge."⁵
- 2.15. **Endure afflictions!**
- 2.15.1. **Christianity will cost something!**
- 2.15.1.1. Pay the price w/o **grumbling** or **regret!**
- 2.15.2. As **Sir Winston Churchill** said, "**Death** and **sorrow** will be the companions of our journey; **hardship** our garment; **constancy** and **valor** our only shield. We must be **united**, we must be **undaunted**, we must be **inflexible**."
- 2.16. **Do the work of an evangelist!**
- 2.16.1. **The Christian** is essentially the bringer of **Good News!**
- 2.16.2. History records a remarkable account of the destruction of an ancient town. The watchmen on the walls would call out whenever they thought they saw a foe approaching. Sensing that the people had begun to resent them for giving these false alarms, they decided to remain quiet. Regrettably, not long afterward the enemy actually did come. The city that could have been saved was assaulted and devastated, and nothing was left but smoking ruins. Later someone erected a small memorial inscribed with the following **epitaph**: "Here stood a town that was destroyed by silence."
- 2.16.2.1. **Q:** Can God's people afford to be silent about the sin that surrounds them?
- 2.16.3. **Q:** What is the greatest threat to the church? - "It is not communism, atheism, or materialism; the greatest threat is **Christians** trying to sneak into heaven **incognito** without ever **sharing their faith**."
- 2.16.4. The church today for the most part has become **The Submarine Church** in which 1 day we just shut the hatch on the **outside world** and submerged into its own sea. And only on occasion does it run up the periscope to even see where it is going. [#4214 7700 Illus.]

⁵Henry, M. (1996, c1991). *Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible : Complete and unabridged in one volume* (2 Ti 4:1). Peabody: Hendrickson.

- 2.16.5. Lyman Beecher of Boston Church was once asked how he was able to accomplish so much in his church. He replied:
 “Oh, I preach Sundays, and four hundred of my church members preach every day.”
- 2.16.5.1. See folks, it’s all of us making the move from the **church** to the **un-churched**.
- 2.16.5.2. We are **all** to do the work of an **evangelist**.
- 2.16.5.3. It’s befriending a neighbor.
- 2.16.6. Peter Wagner (Prof of church growth @ Fuller) defines Evangelism w/3 words:
- 2.16.6.1. [1] **Presence** – It’s **helping people** to fulfill their needs. A cup of cold water | Jesus name. Lending a helping hand.
- 2.16.6.2. [2] **Proclamation** – goes beyond that & **makes known the message of Jesus**, so people hear it & understand it.
 2.16.6.2.1. **Whether they accept it or not.**
- 2.16.6.3. [3] **Persuasion** – goes beyond both of those & insists on making disciples.
- 2.16.6.4. The great commission says, “*go, baptize, teach*” but with **one imperative to “make disciples!”**
- 2.16.6.5. When Jesus the Good Shepherd discovers that 1 sheep is lost, He leaves the 99 who are safe in the fold, & searches for the lost sheep until it is found.
 2.16.6.5.1. Today we **do not** have 99 in the fold & 1 outside.
 2.16.6.5.2. Today we have at best 30 in the fold & 70 outside.⁶
- 2.17. **Fulfill your ministry!** – fulfill = accomplish the purpose.
- 2.17.1. **Shun** no area of ministry. **Discharge** all the duties of your ministry.
- 2.17.2. This did not mean that Timothy was required to do the same things Paul was called to do.
- 2.17.3. **God has a specific purpose** for each of His kids.
- 2.17.4. **Q:** What challenge should we find here concerning our own Christian service?
- 2.17.5. **Have this ambition:**
 [1] To be of use to **your church** of which you are apart!
 [2] To be of use in **the society** in which you live!
 2.17.5.1. In this way you will be of service to your **God**, to your **Church**, & to your **fellow-man**.
- 2.18. **When you awake each day remind yourself:**
 I will **be watchful** in all things; I will **endure afflictions** that come my way;
 I will **do the work** of an **evangelist**; I will **fulfill my ministry!**

⁶ Peter Wagner; Perspectives; pg.533.

- 2.19. If God wrote a **Want Ad** perhaps it would read like this: Kingdom workers need immediately. Urgency of task and shortage of workers makes it mandatory that we expand our labor pool immediately. Recent resignations have left many openings. Frequent absenteeism will force us to make unwanted cutbacks in services unless we expand work force immediately. Ability not as essential as availability plus an excellent training manual is available. Training manual has been tried and proven over the past two thousands years. We hire regardless of sex, race or age. Diverse backgrounds welcome and even helpful. In the past we have used peasants and poets, kings and fig pickers, fishermen and doctors, harlots and queens, young lads and wise old men. Main qualifications: firm faith in Christ, a soft heart and a thick skin. Work not suitable for everyone. Must be able to withstand criticism of fellow workers and shirkers who often insist on their rights while ignoring their responsibilities.