

~2 Timothy~

Lesson 19 – Preach the Word of Truth

Let's begin by reading our text today- **2 Tim 3:10-4:5**.

We are continuing our study of 2nd Timothy and we are nearing the end of the last letter Paul will ever write and we have come to the most emphatic exhortation that Paul has said to Timothy in this letter, that is to “PREACH THE WORD”. And as we learned last week, before Paul delivers this exhortation, he prefaces this statement in the most intense and extraordinary way anyone can say something. He stands this statement before the Righteous Judge, Jesus Christ, and we spent the entire lesson last week digging out the treasures of this amazing assertion.

In this statement, Paul is reminding Timothy of the God we serve. Jesus, who is the Righteous Judge, is coming to rescue us from this perverse world. Paul is giving Timothy a message of the hope of Jesus' coming to catch us away and bring us into eternal glory with Him.

This statement also comes with a reminder that we serve the Righteous Judge and that one day soon we will stand before Him with our works being tested by fire. We will receive rewards based on the good and faithful works we did, and all the selfishness that is still hanging on will burn away as we walk into eternal glory with Him, 1 Cor 3:11-15.

And so now as we continue in chapter 4, we see this intense and solemn charge of Paul exhorting Timothy to stand in his calling, and testifying to him to “PREACH THE WORD!”

... Lets look at this by reading our text...

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

We are going to look at verse 2 in four sections: 1) what to preach; 2) when to preach; 3) the effects of preaching; 4) the manner in which we preach

† *Preach the word!*... - κήρυξον τὸν λόγον

- Preaching doesn't have to be intimidating. Preaching is not just for pastors, its for all of us. Preaching is simply proclaiming.
- “**Preach**”- kerusso, κηρύσσω, to proclaim as a herald, to announce openly and publicly
 - We proclaim Jesus because of His goodness. Because He is our Savior and He is worthy to be praised
 - It is a proclamation in exultation.
 - Paul calls himself a preacher, kerux, κήρυξ, one who heralds Jesus Christ, **2 Tim 1:10-11**.
 - What does he tell us to preach?
- “**Preach...the Word**” – Proclaim the logos, λόγος,
 - Lets look at some examples of what preaching the Word looks like: **Romans 10:8-17; 1 Cor 1:21-23, 2:1-2**; Matt 5:11, 16; Acts 28:31; Col 1:23
 - Preaching the Word is preaching Christ because the Word is Christ, John 1, therefore, we preach Christ and Him crucified.
 - This is the mandate for all of us, proclaim and herald the Word of Truth. Nothing else, just preach the Word. Preach the Scripture and preach all of the Scripture, all of the divinely inspired and God breathed logos of Truth given to us to proclaim.
- Unfortunately, the majority of modern churches are not preaching the Word. The pulpit is filled with motivational speeches and stories fueled with emotions trying to entertain, rather than preaching the Word.
 - Preachers are trying to draw in the crowds with enticing sermons, but what they don't understand is there is supernatural power in the Word. This is the Word of Life.
 - Too many pastors are trying to dress up their sermons to make themselves look and feel like the

world. They are trying to attract the world by putting on a show. Jesus doesn't need us with a fancy marketing scheme to draw people to Himself.

John 12:32- *“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”*

- Preach the Word, preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified, and those who believe will be drawn to Him.
- This is how you build a strong, healthy church that can withstand any attack of the enemy
 - This is what Paul was telling Timothy to do. Timothy was given the responsibility to rebuild and strengthen the church of Ephesus. So how did Paul tell him to do this? Do you think Paul told him to go out and develop a marketing scheme to attract the pagans and the Judaizers and the Gnostics to make them feel more comfortable in the church?
 - No, in fact Paul told Timothy to do the opposite, but this is exactly what the modern church is doing today with the world.
 - Many mega churches are compromising the gospel and conforming to the world so that the world feels more comfortable in the church.
 - The world should not feel comfortable in the church. We want them to come to church because it is here, they can find eternal life, but in church they should be hearing the Word that starts creating a work of conviction on their heart that will transform them into holiness.
 - We shouldn't be trying to please the world, because the only way to please the world is to compromise the gospel. Paul said this in **Gal 1:6-12**.
- Don't try to dress up the gospel to please the world
 - The minute you start adding your own schemes to attract the world, this will lead down a path of compromise, tolerance, and wavering of the Truth, **2 Cor 2:17; 4:1-6; 1 Thess 2:3-5; 13**.
 - Preach the Word, and let the Scripture do its work,
- In 2 Timothy 3:16, we learned about the work of the Word. How Scripture is profitable toward teaching, reproof, correction (a rebuilding and lifting up), and instruction in Righteousness.
- This is why expository teaching is so powerful. The Word must drive the teaching instead of the teaching driving the Word. Preach the Word don't preach from the Word.
- When we study the Word verse by verse like we do, we are following the mind of the Spirit.
 - Topical teaching runs the risk of teaching what you want and editing out the Word of God to say what you want to say.
 - The topical preacher must be very careful not to just use the Word to back up his teaching. This can lead to elevating your own words, using Scripture to back your own words rather than Preaching the Word and using your words to elevate Scripture.
- The one who preaches the Word, is manifesting the Words of Life into the life of the hearer, and this is what changes lives, Prov 4:22; John 5:39-40, Titus 1:3 1 John 1:1-4; 5:13; Titus 1:1-3

1 Corinthians 2:4-5-⁴ *And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

You don't need excellency of speech, or fancy talk, or a fancy light show or an enticing marketing scheme,
just PREACH THE WORD!

Now Paul tells Timothy how, and when, and the purpose of Preaching the Word

“Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching”

† *Preach the word!... Be ready in season and out of season...*

- “Be ready”- ephistemi, ἐφίστημι, to stand upon. Compound of ἐπί, + ἵστημι, to stand = to stand upon.
 - Every time this word is used, it is with a stance of authority and boldness.

Acts 22:13- (then Ananias) *came to me; and he stood*, ephistemi, ἐφίστημι, *and said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that same hour I looked up at him.*

Acts 23:11- *But the following night the Lord stood by him*, ephistemi, ἐφίστημι, *and said, “Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.”*

2 Timothy 4:6- *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand*, ephistemi, ἐφίστημι.

- ephistemi, ἐφίστημι, is our bold stance. And what are we to be standing upon? The Word of Truth.
- “stand bold upon the Truth... in season and out of season”- eukairos, akairos, εὐκαίρως, ἀκαίρως, are adverbs describing, ephistemi, ἐφίστημι, our bold stance upon the Truth
 - From the root word, kairos, καίρος, relating to time or a season, Matt 13:30; Jn 7:6; 2 Tim 3:1
 - εὖ- well done, good ~ , εὖ-καίρως, well or good fitting time
 - ἀ- alpha negative prefix- ἀ-καίρως, not a fitting situation, not the right time, without opportunity
 - Paul tells the man of God that he is to preach the Word and stand upon the Truth in good times when the situation is convenient and also when it seems there is no opportunity.
 - The Amplified Bible says, “*whether the opportunity seems to be favorable or unfavorable. (Whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether it is welcome or unwelcome)*”
 - No matter the circumstances, we always stand bold upon the Truth and never compromise, Acts 14:1-3- this bold stance actually got Paul stoned to death, Acts 14:19, but that still didn’t stop Paul, Acts 14:21-22, Acts 17:2-18.

†Preach the word!... Be ready in season and out of season... †Convince, rebuke, exhort...

- As we are preaching the Word and standing bold upon the Truth, whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether there is opportunity or no opportunity, “convince, rebuke, exhort”
 - “convince”- We saw this word in 3:16 describing the reproving and convicting work of the Word, elegchos, ἔλεγχος.
 - The translators use convince because a convicting proof will convince the sinner. But why would they translate it “convince” when just a couple of verses earlier it was translated “reproof”?
 - Paul is talking about the work of preaching and teaching the Word and the Word convicts and reproves sin.
 - Notice how these three commands tie right back to the basis of what Paul has been saying this entire letter, separate from sin, sanctify, respond to false teaching with the Truth and reproof, rebuke, and exhort.
 - “rebuke”- epitimaō, ἐπιτιμάω,
 - This word is used 29 times in the NT and every time it is used in the sense of admonishing someone or something to stop in its current action and turn another way.
 - Rebuking demons, Matt 17:18; rebuking the wind, Matt 8:26; rebuking fever, Lk 4:39; Jesus rebuked Peter, “get behind me Satan!”, Mk 8:33
 - “exhort”- parakaleo, παρακαλέω, to call alongside, to comfort, admonish, entreat
- 1 Thessalonians 2:11- *as you know how we exhorted*, parakaleo, παρακαλέω, *and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children,*

- Notice this progression and how it is very similar to the progression of 2 Tim 3:16-
 - 1st) the Word reproves, convicts, shines the light on the darkness exposing its evil deeds,
 - 2nd) the Word rebukes, strongly admonishes and tells you to STOP and turn the other direction!
 - 3rd) the Word exhorts, rebuilds, tells you the new direction to start heading, it calls alongside and comforts in love as a father instructs his child.
- And look at the structure of the work of the Word. First, we preach the Word... and then the work of the Word is established in “**longsuffering and teaching**”

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

- “**with all longsuffering and teaching**” - ἐν πάσῃ μακροθυμίᾳ καὶ διδαχῇ
 - Paul tells us in what manner we are to preach the Word
 - en pase, ἐν πάσῃ, literally means. “in all” not necessarily “with all”. There is a difference between in all and with all.
 - “in” gives a deeper sense, a deeper commitment. It like the difference of doing something “in Christ” or “with Christ”
 - “in” is being rooted and committed in something. “With” just gives the sense of being alongside.
 - “**longsuffering and teaching**” - makrothumia kai didache, μακροθυμία καὶ διδαχή, are familiar words.
 - These were two of the traits that Timothy carefully followed in 2 Tim 3:10.
 - Longsuffering- makrothumia, μακροθυμία, it is delaying the swelling emotions of wrath and anger on your enemies.
 - Teaching (doctrine)- didache, διδαχή, or didaskalia, διδασκαλία – both from the same root meaning the teaching of the teacher.
 - Remember how we are to respond to those who oppose us, 2 Tim 2:24- **don’t fight, but be gentle, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition...**
 - Paul says to Preach the Word, reproving, rebuking and exhorting **IN** longsuffering and teaching.
 - Don’t get swayed away in swelling emotions, instead remain steady and steadfast in the Truth, so that **IN** teaching, the Word can do its work.

This is the response to those who oppose the Word of God. Whether they oppose it directly or they are trying to bring in their own false ideas. We respond with the Truth. We Preach the Word without compromise, without the tolerance of any other doctrine, so that they might know the Truth and come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, 2 Tim 2:24-26.

Preach the Word! Herald by making a public proclamation in exultation of the Logos, who is the Word of Life. Take a bold stance upon the Word of Truth whether in good times or not, whether the situation is convenient or even when it seems there is no opportunity. Convict, rebuke and exhort; **CONVICT** by reproving and exposing sin by the Truth; **REBUKE** the sin by admonishing them to stop in their current action and turn to the Truth; **EXHORT** them by calling them alongside, correcting, and teaching them the new direction to start heading. Entreat them in comfort and love as a father instructs his child by directing them in the right path of Truth. Do all this without being swayed away by your swelling emotions of anger, but remain steady and steadfast in teaching the Truth so that the Word can do its perfect work.