

~2 Timothy~

Lesson 21 – Fulfill Your Ministry

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

We have now come to the end of the final section of Paul's last exhortation to Timothy. And as we just read, Paul concludes this exhortation by giving him nine imperatives, which are nine commands before he departs this life and enters eternal glory. These nine imperatives, which is really eight actions driven by one directive, and this one directive is to 1) **PREACH THE WORD**... Then from this solemn charge flows eight more imperatives. 2) Be ready and stand bold upon the Truth... 3) reprove and convict... 4) rebuke... 5) exhort... 6) be watchful... 7) suffer evil afflictions... 8) do the work of an evangelist... 9) fulfill your ministry.

We studied the first five of these imperatives a few weeks ago and today we will be looking at the final four. And within these nine imperatives we learned last week of the warning to Timothy to guard the Truth from apostasy. In verses 4:3-4, Paul warns Timothy that there is a time coming when evil men and impostors, deceiving and be deceived, will be drawn away from the Truth through their own lustful desires and they will be turned aside to the enemy and its doctrine of demons and fables. But as we learned last week, this is not the life of one who stands for the Truth. The faithful believer who has ears to hear and understands the Word will be unwavering and immovable in the Truth, and this believer will never fall from the Truth. And this is the encouragement that Paul is giving Timothy as he ends his final words to his son in the faith. Paul says, *"But you Timothy, you be watchful in all things... endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, and fulfill your ministry."*

These imperatives, ending with the final words, *"fulfill your ministry"*, is a summation of all that Paul has been telling Timothy in this 2nd epistle, and even including the 1st as well. The major thrust of this 2nd epistle has been to stand fast in the Truth, guard the words of Jesus Christ entrusted to him, and walk faithfully in the service that God has called him to. And Paul reminds him that this path will be met with hostility and opposition which will lead to suffering evil affliction. Of which Timothy was already facing immense hostility and persecution. Paul is strengthening Timothy and telling him in no uncertain terms that God has set him apart for ministry and that he, being fully equipped to perform every good work, now is charged to fulfill the ministry that God has called him to perform.

We have all been called into the ministry, which is simply the service of God to be fellow-workers in the plan of redemption with Him. Today we are going to learn of the path to fulfill your ministry. This is the outline Paul laid out for Timothy and I believe this can be applied to every faithful believer. As we go through this text today, we will be taking an overview of Timothy's life and his walk with Paul in the service of his calling. So we will be looking at a lot of scripture specifically from these letters to Timothy and also examples of his travels in preaching the Word with Paul.

Verse 5 concludes Paul's exhortations to Timothy, because from 4:6 to the end of the chapter, Paul makes a shift to his closing salutations. So in essence, this verse 5 ends the admonitions to Timothy. These are the final words of encouragement Paul will ever write to his son in the faith and this last verse in this last section of exhortation sums up the hope that Paul has for Timothy.

2 Timothy 4:5 †But you †be watchful in all things, †endure afflictions, †do the work of an evangelist, †fulfill your ministry.

Paul gives Timothy four final imperatives... 1) be watchful... 2) suffer evil afflictions... 3) do the work of an evangelist... 4) fulfill your ministry

† ⁵ *But you...* οὐ δέ,

- Paul begins this verse with a conjunction that is meant to contrast what he just said, *"But you Timothy"*
 - And this statement is a double emphatic as we have seen throughout this letter, emphasizing that Paul is speaking directly to Timothy
 - But you Timothy... οὐ δέ,

† ⁵ But you... *be watchful in all things...*

1) Be watchful in all- νῆφε ἐν παντί ,

- nepho, νήφω, be sober. This word has the idea of keeping your mind clear and unadulterated from the things of the world that might take you away from the Truth.
- This word is used 6 times in the NT, 3 by Paul and 3 by Peter.
- Being sober, awake, and alert for our Lord's return. It is always having our eyes fixed on Jesus. Its not being watchful for the enemy, its being watchful for our salvation, **1 Thess 5:6, 8; 1 Pet 1:13; 4:7; 5:6-8;**

- Its keeping our eyes straight ahead fixed on Jesus, **Prov 4:20-27.**

- Being watchful and sober is the walk of sanctification. Walking the straight and narrow path of Truth. Paul was continually reminding Timothy to do this:

1 Timothy 6:12- *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life...*

1 Timothy 6:20- *O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—*

2 Timothy 2:15–16- *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. ¹⁶ But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.*

2 Timothy 2:21–23-²¹ *Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. ²² Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. ²³ But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.*

2 Timothy 3:16–17-¹⁶ *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

- We who are alert and sober will not be drawn away by the deception of the enemy, 2 Tim 3:9
- We are of the day and of the Light, and those who are of the Light are walking in the Light as He is in the Light and there is no stumbling in him, 1 Jn 1:5-7; 2:9-11; Eph 5:8-14

† ⁵ But you... be watchful in all things... *endure afflictions...*

2) Endure afflictions-kakopatheo, κακοπαθέω- Suffer evil afflictions

2 Timothy 3:12- Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

- Many times Paul promises persecution and affliction for taking the stance of Truth, **2 Tim 1:8; 1:12; 2:3; 2:8-9; 4:6.**
 - Timothy was no stranger to persecution. Timothy traveled with Paul for 12 years in which Timothy experienced much of the same sufferings that Paul did, in fact Paul was constantly sending Timothy back to the churches to help them through their sufferings, **1 Thess 2:2; 3:1-7; Acts 17:5-15; 18:5-6; Phil 2:19-24.**
 - According to church tradition, Timothy was martyred for standing for the Truth in 97AD, ^{Foxe} Book of Martyrs and William Cave's Life of Timothy, 1684
 - Suffering evil afflictions is the expectation we must have as Christians, **John 15:18-21; 16:1-3; 16:33; 1 Pet 4:12-14; Heb 10:32-39; John 3:19-20; Matt 5:11-12.**

† ⁵ But you... be watchful in all things... endure afflictions... *do the work of an evangelist...*

3) Do the work of an evangelist- ἔργον ποιήσον εὐαγγελιστοῦ

- Commit yourself to the work of one who proclaims the good news of the gospel

- This word “do” is poieo, ποιέω. It is so much more than just “do” This is a commitment of the heart. It is what have you committed your life to.
- “Evangelist”- euangelistes, εὐαγγελιστής, literally a messenger of good news - εὐ + ἀγγελος
 - One who proclaims the good message of Jesus Christ
 - Paul and Timothy labored in the work of the gospel, Acts 20:24; Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 4:15; 2 Cor 2:12; Gal 1:11; Eph 6:19; Phil 1:7; Col 1:5; 1 Thess 2:2, 4, 8, 9, 3:2; 2 Thess 2:14; 1 Tim 1:11; 2 Tim 1:8; Phil 13;
- Remember in 3:10, Paul says, “*you carefully followed me...*”, parakaloutheo, παρακολουθέω, you carefully followed alongside me and imitated me completely,
- And for 12 years Timothy learned from the Apostle Paul on how to be a faithful worker committed to the preaching of the gospel, 1 Cor 4:15-17; 16:10-11; Phil 2:19-24, 3:17; 1 Thess 1:5-7, 2:1-15, 3:1-7.
 - This shows the trust that Paul had in Timothy.
- Paul knows these are his last words and he is passing his mantle to Timothy and the charge to be committed to the work of an evangelist is Paul telling Timothy to take over his work in orchestrating the preaching the gospel to the world. This is just my conjecture, but just as Paul orchestrated the assignments of other believers and was constantly sending people to other churches to keep them strong in the faith, I believe this responsibility was now being handed to Timothy. And I think this is why Paul chose Timothy to be the bishop of Ephesus because it was the central hub to the known world.

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

4) Fulfill your ministry- τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον

- “fulfill”- plerophoreo, πληροφόρέω,
 - Compound of pleres, πλήρης, (abounding in, to fully occupy) + phoreo, φορέω, (to bear) = to fully bear, to be fully established in
 - Paul is telling Timothy... be fully established in your ministry.
- “your ministry”- ten diakonian sou, τὴν διακονίαν σου,
 - Ministry-diakonia, διακονία- a service, a commission in the ministry of the gospel.
 - This is the ministry entrusted to Timothy from Paul through the laying on of hands, 2 Tim 1:6. This service is the ministry of teaching and preaching the Word.
 - It started when Timothy stepped out with Paul in Lystra, Acts 16:1, and spent 12 years traveling with Paul. Then he was ordained the bishop of Ephesus by prophecy and the laying on of hands, 1 Tim 1:18, 4:14; 2 Tim 1:6.
 - This is why Paul has an unwavering confidence in Timothy’s calling, because it was ordained by prophecy from the Holy Spirit.
 - I believe this is when Paul entrusted, parakatatheke, παρακαταθήκη, (deeply committed) the gospel to Timothy, 1 Tim 1:18; 6:20; 2 Tim 1:14, and he began his ministry, namely to further the gospel to the world.
- How is it that Timothy is to fulfill his ministry? This verse 5 ends Paul’s discourse of exhortation to Timothy and it is fitting that Paul ends with this statement, simply stating, “fulfill your ministry”
- He says, “you have been called by God into the ministry, God has given you spiritual gifts and I have equipped you with the Word of God and the revelation of Jesus Christ to perform the work of what God has called you to, therefore, fully bear and establish your ministry...”

Paul is writing this just days or weeks from his departure into glory and Paul is entrusting Timothy to continue his work of the gospel and these nine imperative statements from 4:2-5 is the summary of how Timothy is to “fulfill his ministry”:

1) PREACH THE WORD... 2) Be ready and stand bold upon the Truth... 3) reprove and convict... 4) rebuke... 5) exhort... 6) be watchful and sober for our Lord’s return... 7) suffer evil afflictions... 8) do the work of an evangelist... and if you do these things, this is how you will 9) fulfill and be established in your ministry...

This is how we: *“Stand in the Truth and lay hold on eternal life in Christ Jesus”*

I want to end our lesson today by reading this final section again with what we have learned over these past 9 weeks. As we read this, I want you to remember that this is the final exhortation to Timothy, in which he is encouraging and strengthening Timothy to “fulfill his ministry”. I’m calling this the “Zamplified” version.

2 Timothy 3:10-4:5

¹⁰ But you Timothy, have carefully followed alongside me, imitating me completely in teaching, in your course of life, in your purpose [that which is first place], in faithfulness, in delaying swelling emotions of anger, in unconditional Godly love, in an under-abiding of faithful endurance to the end, ¹¹ in being chased or pursued after in persecutions, in afflictions and suffering, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, [and in your home town of] Lystra- what persecutions I endured [even to the point of being stoned to death]. And out of them all the Lord delivered me [so that I could continue in the calling God has for me to preach the gospel]. ¹² Yes, and all who desire to live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution [knowing that our light affliction is working for us a far more eternal weight of glory. That the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that will be revealed in us].

¹³ But evil men and imposters, [these men who use seductive trickery with deceptive words], will progress upon the worse, because they are deceiving and they themselves are being deceived. ¹⁴ [But even though dangerous and perilous times are in the church, and evil men and impostors are creeping in deceiving many because they themselves are being deceived], you Timothy, must abide [in the Truth], abide in the things which you have learned and been established in, knowing from whom you have learned them [namely in learning the gospel as you have carefully followed me these past twelve years and the words of Jesus Christ that have been entrusted to me and now I have deeply entrusted them to you]. ¹⁵ and that from the time you were a baby, [you were raised in a Godly home by your mother Eunice and your grandmother Lois, from whom] you have learned and known the Sacred Writings [of the Old Covenant] which are able and continually strengthening, making you wise unto salvation [for it is the Sacred Writings that point to Jesus Christ our Savior. It is the Holy Scriptures that show us the need of a Savior and prepare us to believe in Jesus as the Christ, for it is only by one name under heaven that we are saved] through faith by which Salvation is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁶ All Scripture [the whole council of God, the Old and New Testament] is God-breathed [not coming from any human source, but men being moved and carried about by the Holy Spirit wrote the inerrant Word of God], and is profitable toward doctrine by teaching [the Truth]; toward reproof [by exposing the darkness and convicting sin]; toward correction [through the process of rebuilding and straightening back up and strengthening with Truth]; toward the Father’s loving hand of instruction and training; which this instruction, [and the entire work of the Word manifested through Scripture is rooted] in righteousness. ¹⁷ So that the man of God might be complete, having been made fully complete by the Scripture for every good work [which God has prepared in Christ before the foundation of the world that we might walk in them].

^{4:1} [And now Timothy, you have been equipped with the Word of God, I have entrusted you with the Words of Life] Therefore, I thoroughly charge and testify to you, before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, [the Righteous Judge], who will judge the living and the dead in accordance with His appearing, [when He shines Himself upon those who love Him by catching us away to glory] and in accordance with His kingdom [when our rewards of faithfulness will determine the level of our service in the kingdom, as we rein with Him for all eternity). I charge you therefore to... ² **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].

³ For the time will come when [these evil men and impostors who are deceiving and being deceived and turning away those even in the church], will not bear up healthy, wholesome sound teaching. But according to their own lustful desires [being driven by the flesh], and because of their incessant desire to have their hearing tickled, [so that they might have their emotions stirred to feel good about the way they live], they will heap up upon themselves, accumulating teachers [who might satisfy their insatiable desire to feed their lustful flesh]. ⁴ [And in doing so] they will turn their understanding and their ability to hear away from the Truth, resulting in them being passively turned aside to wicked and perverse fables [of the enemy leading to apostacy and destruction].

⁵ But you Timothy, you be watchful in all things [pertaining to salvation and eternal life in Jesus Christ. Keeping your mind clear and unadulterated from things of the world that might take you away from the Truth. Be sober, awake, and alert for our Lord's return, always having your eyes fixed on Jesus]; suffer evil afflictions [knowing that all those who desire to live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution]; commit yourself to the work of one who proclaims the good news of the gospel [as you have done since you followed me; and finally, Timothy, you have been fully equipped to carry on the work of the gospel for which I am now being poured out as a drink offering and the time of my departure is near, therefore], abound and be fully established in your service. Stand in the Truth, lay hold on eternal life, and fulfill your ministry.