

Preach the Word, Run the Race

2 Timothy 4:1-8

I. Introduction

- A. Read Passage, Pray
- B. The movement of the Epistle
- C. Thesis statement/road map

II. The Charge (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

- A. The charge is a solemn, judicial, and eschatological, evoking previous moments of (often covenantal) succession in biblical history
- B. “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus” – this charge is given with Divine witness and Divine accountability
- C. The Eschatological nature – eternity is at stake: for Paul, for the church, and for Timothy. God preserves his people through the church’s preservation and proclamation of the apostolic word
- D. Note the content
 - 1. Preach the word. The word is the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27) This is the primary command. Just as Timothy was told to be rightly handle the word of truth in Chapter 2, and that ALL Scripture is God-breathed to equip the man of God for every good work in Chapter 3, so Timothy is to preach it

2. How is he to preach it?
 - a. In season and out of season
 - b. To reprove, rebuke, and exhort (NOT TO IMPRESS, AND NOT TO PLEASE).

III. The Crisis (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

- A. The coming crisis has already begun
(2 Timothy 2:16-18)
- B. People will not endure sound teaching
 1. Their own desires lead them to find teachers that suit their passions. Their itching ears crave affirmation, novelty, and relief from sound teaching
 2. The result is a turning from truth into myths

IV. The Response (2 Timothy 4:5)

- A. Be Sober-minded (rather than led astray by passions, yours and others)
- B. Endure Suffering
- C. Do the work of an evangelist
- D. Fulfill your ministry

V. The Race: The Ground and Goal of Christian Life and Ministry (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

- A. Suffering demands endurance
- B. But the righteous judge will judge righteously
- C. And all who have loved the appearing of Jesus will be vindicated

VI. Application

A. Not just for preachers

1. We are all called to entrust ourselves to teachers
2. We are all called in SOME capacity to preach the word – in our homes, communities, work places and schools.

B. The underlying character, motivation, and faith required of preachers is required of all believers