

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUG 31ST-SEPT 1ST, 2019 // 2 TIMOTHY

### AN ITCH TO HEAR (2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5) PROMISE THAT YOU WILL DO THE WORK!

This is Paul's last letter and correspondence with Timothy, his beloved protégé. As he wraps up this letter, Paul emphatically charges Tim "before God and Christ" to do the work he has trained him to do.

- Paul wasn't only motivating Tim, but **all Christians to follow through** on their calling from God (Mt. 5:37).

### WE ARE TO TAKE OUR IDENTITY SERIOUSLY

If we claim to be Christians, **we must take careful consideration and evaluation of how we live.** God is "going to judge the living and the dead," which means **He sees everything**, even what we hide from others.

- One day He'll be "appearing"** and we will be held accountable for our lives (Rev. 20:12).

### WHAT IS THE CHARGE?

The first charge was to "**preach the word**," This included the OT, the Gospels, and the writings of the NT apostles. Personal opinions and theories may provide interesting discussion, but the essential truths of God are essential and only come from the Bible. **It is simple: stick to the Word.**

### WE ARE TO BE PREPARED AT ALL TIMES

The 2nd part of the charge is to **be ready** "in season and out of season," which simply means to be living for Christ all the time. While we are modeling our faith, we are to be communicating our faith by **rebuking, correcting, and encouraging with great patience and teaching.**

### EVEN WITH LOVE AND TRUTH, EVIL WILL CONTINUE

We are to reach out to people with love and truth, but even if we do this perfectly, there will be many that "will not tolerate sound doctrine" of the Bible because they "**have an itch to hear what they want to hear.**" **God has absolute truths for our well-being. We need to submit and trust.**

### WE NEED TO BE JUDGING BY THE FRUIT

People that have followed selfishness and ridiculous myths have not found the fulfillment they claimed to have known the path to (2 Tim. 3:5). **So, the "itching ears" method isn't working.**

- God's truth points out error and sin therefore showing us reality, grace, and freedom!**

### IN ALL THE CRAZINESS, EXERCISE SELF-CONTROL

Paul called Tim to live a contrasting life to the prevailing culture around him. If we are to achieve this, **we must not panic in times of hardship.**

- In order to remain self-controlled, we must have the Holy Spirit, read, study, pray, and seek God's help.**

### POURED OUT (2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8)

#### PASSING THE TORCH

Paul was being extremely clear that his time was coming to an end and Timothy's time was beginning. There was a lot of work to do, and Paul understood the importance of discipleship.

- The greatest leaders are those that pass the torch and let others carry it further.**

#### "BEING POURED OUT LIKE A DRINK OFFERING"

Paul referred to his death as a sacrifice to God (Nm. 15). He reviews his life in 3 analogies.

- "I have fought the good fight": **This life is difficult and there is spiritual warfare.**
- "I have finished the race": **We must finish what we begin.**
- "I have kept the faith": **We must hold onto sound theology.**

### THERE IS AN INDESCRIBABLE REWARD

Paul endured the hardships of life and ministry because he understood there was an eternal reward.

- The "**crown of righteousness**" given by "the righteous judge" Jesus would be **an eternity spent with the Creator in a perfect environment.** All the pain of this life will be erased from the next.

### THE GREAT FUTURE URGES US ON

Though this life has loneliness, loss, hard times, persecutions, and disappointments, we can make it through this life by the power of the Holy Spirit and by remembering we have a perfect future!

- Christians often forget that we are migrants passing through to reach a better place** (1Ch. 29:14-16).

### FRIENDS & ENEMIES (2 TIMOTHY 4:9-15)

#### IF YOU CAN MAKE IT, COME BY

Though Paul knew a good eternity awaited, at the end of his life he was lonely and wanted to see his friends one more time. Though we should be content overall, **Christians should not be expected to exhibit perpetual happiness. This life is hard, and sometimes it shows.**

### PEOPLE WILL LET US DOWN

Paul mentions Demas that "deserted" him because he "loved this present world." Demas was a friend mentioned in Col. 4 and Phil. 24, and though he probably remained a Christian, he abandoned the work of the ministry.

- Humans naturally seek safety and many Christians will opt out of engaging in the hard work of our faith**

### OTHERS WILL PRESS ON THROUGH

Crescens, Titus, and Luke were examples of people that had stepped up to the plate and pushed forward to do the work of the Lord. **Though many will get weary and quit, others will lean into Christ and get the strength to do His work!**

- Mark had quit on Paul (Acts 15) but had **matured** and committed again.

### THE WISH LIST

Paul sent Tychicus to Ephesus to get a wish list of things Paul wanted before he died. Tychicus was to get Carpus (Christian leader in Troas), a cloak, the scrolls (the OT), and some parchment for Paul to take notes. At the end of his life, Paul wanted his **friends, to stay warm**, and to be refreshed by **the scriptures.** Interesting.

### STAY AWAY FROM DANGEROUS PEOPLE

Though Paul had good friends, he also had enemies. He warned Tim to stay away from Alexander who had done "great harm" to him.

- Alex was an enemy of the gospel and was probably the man that had Paul arrested. Paul knows **God will deal with evil people, so he only warns to stay away, not take revenge.**

### SAFE (2 TIMOTHY 4:16-22)

#### GOD IS THE ONLY THING THAT WILL SUSTAIN US

Paul mentioned that when he was down "one stood by me, but everyone deserted me." Paul probably had a pretrial and none of his friends were present.

- Paul shows grace, "May it not be counted against them," because he knows **mankind will come up short. We must choose grace over bitterness!**

### THE LORD ALWAYS COMES THROUGH

God is sovereign (in control) over all and He overcomes human efforts and failures. Though we may not understand how or why things happen the way they do, we must know that God is good!

- Paul was arrested and killed, but look at what God has done with him for the last 2000 years!

### "...RESCUED FROM THE LION'S MOUTH"

The "lion" can refer to Nero, who would eventually execute Paul, or possibly Satan, the enemy of every believer. Christianity would become the official religion of the Roman Empire (313 A.D.) and Christians will overcome Satan and be "safely" ushered into "His heavenly kingdom."

### THE CONCLUSION

The end of Paul's letter to Tim contains last minute instructions to some of Paul's closest friends. Priscilla and Aquila were fellow tentmakers and helped lead with Paul. They had also risked their lives for him. The "household of Onesiphorus" (2 Tim. 1:16-18) probably indicates that Ones had died.

### FITTING LAST WORDS

After telling Tim to send greetings to some other close friends, Paul tells him to "make every effort to come before winter" to see him. "The Lord be with your spirit" was a prayer for strength for Tim.

- "Grace be with you all"** isn't only for Tim, but all who've read, and will read, this letter. These are Paul's final words to us.

### A BIT OF SMOKE THAT VANISHES

James 4:14 says, "we don't know what tomorrow will bring, because we're just smoke that appears for a little while, then vanishes." Regardless of intelligence, wealth, health, influence, fame, etc., we cannot stop death nor dictate tomorrow.

### SEEING THE BIGGER PICTURE

- Though we cannot control tomorrow, we can prepare for whatever it brings by trusting and depending on Jesus. Life will have hurdles! But, if we **pray, seek the Word for wisdom, have good people in our lives, and know God is good**, we can weather the storms and even do good things for His kingdom.
- Paul understood that the next life is more important than the current one. He also understood that **what we do in this life sets the foundation for the next.** We must remember we are migrants passing through. **The short time here is nothing compared to eternity.**
- Are we living in such a way that our future foundation is a good one?** What are we investing in? Who are we investing in? Are we more in love with the temporal than the eternal? **How confident are we in our salvation and the salvation of those we love?** What's the **evidence** of that confidence?