

“Preach the Word - The Scope”
2 Timothy 4:2-5
(Preached at Trinity, November 13, 2022)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we've seen, **Chapter 4** opens with Paul charging Timothy with His responsibility as one set apart as a preacher of the Word of God.
 - A. We've looked at the commission, God's charge upon Timothy as a pastor. A solemn call.
"I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus"
 - B. We've also looked at the focus of this commission. He was to "Preach the Word."
Paul is describing the primary work of the pastor.
He is to "preach" and he is to "preach the Word." It is a Divine commission. He is to preach with a continual remembrance that he is preaching in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ who will judge all men at His appearing.
2. After setting forth the Divine commission to preach, Paul next sets forth the Scope or extent of the call to preach.
 - I. The preacher must be prepared to preach at all times – "be ready in season *and* out of season"
When it's popular and when it's not; convenient or not.
 - A. We must keep in context what Timothy was facing
 1. False teachers, personal attacks, threats of persecution
2 Timothy 3:12-13 NAU - "Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³ But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived."
 2. Preaching was not popular with the Roman government, with the Jews, and even with many within the church
Paul's command: "be ready in season, out of season"
 - B. The preacher must be ever ready – the word literally means to "stand by"
 1. Example of those flying stand-by – they must listen for their name to be called, they must keep their eye on the list watching for the opportunity – alert and ready.
 2. The preacher must be ever watchful.
 - C. To be always prepared, the preacher must give great importance to the matter of his own spiritual condition.
 1. He must continually give himself to study.
2 Timothy 2:15 NAU - "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."
 2. He must continually give himself to prayer.

3. He must continually give himself to the matter of personal holiness
1 Timothy 4:12 NAU - "Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith *and* purity, show yourself an example of those who believe."
1 Timothy 6:11 NAU - "But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness."
4. His loins must always be girded up with truth and ready
Ephesians 6:13-14 NAS - "Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth. . ."

II. The Preacher must preach with purpose

"reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."

- A. He must reprove and rebuke – two words with essentially the same meaning
 1. Paul has already declared in 3:16 that all Scripture is profitable for reproof
 2. The word for reproof carries the idea of correcting misbehavior or false doctrine.
 3. To reprove and rebuke is to use the Word of God to expose error and sin and to bring to repentance as the Holy Spirit applies it to the heart.
 4. Preaching must always consist of calling sinners to repentance.
 We can see it in the N.T. preaching.
 - a. John the Baptist called sinners to repent for the Kingdom is at hand
 - b. Jesus often preached on the judgement of sinners and the need to repent. He was unwavering in His resolve to preach the truth.
Luke 13:24-28 NAU - "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.
Luke 13:3 NAU - "unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."
 c. The Apostles preached stirring messages on the need to forsake sin
Acts 2:37 NAU - "Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"
 5. The problem of humanity is sin – preaching must expose sin.
- B. The preacher must exhort – a compound word which means to "call beside"
 1. This word carries the idea of bringing encouragement and comfort.
 2. The Word of God not only cuts, it is also a salve that brings healing.
- C. He must preach with patience
 1. Sometimes there are church members that are stiff-necked and resist their pastor's admonitions. This brings sorrow to the pastor and great harm to the one who will not hear.
Hebrews 13:17 NAU - "Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you."
 2. The pastor must continue to faithfully preach – when it is received, and when it is not – when he sees fruit, and when he does not – when he is loved and when he is not.

3. Preaching must always be committed to the Spirit of God. He must convict. He must convince. This is not just a human activity.
- D. He must pay close attention to the content of his sermon – it must be doctrinally sound
1. It is the Scriptures that are able transform and build up "so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (3:17).
 2. Preaching must never be about human ideas or the eloquent words of men.
1 Corinthians 2:4-5 NAU - "and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God."
- III. The Preacher is to preach with urgency – He must capture the moment.
 "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine"
- A. In **Verses 3-4** Paul speaks of religious people, church goers – people who pretend to desire religious truth but will not receive sound doctrine and are not interested in having it interfere with their lives.
1. These are those spoken of in **Chapter 3:1-9**
 They have a "form of godliness" but not the power
 They are "ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."
 2. These are those spoken of in the Parable of the Sower that receive the Word but do not bear fruit – they eventually fall away, although they may continue in the church.
 The time will eventually come when they will turn away from sound doctrine.
 - a. Their best way to avoid persecution is to avoid godliness
2 Timothy 3:12 NAU - "Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."
John 15:19 NAU - "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you."
 - b. To justify their perverted Christianity they bring in pastors that will tickle their ears with lies that will soothe their consciences.
 - c. Or more often, they will leave and find a church that is more to their liking. We praise pastors who remain in the same church for many years. Church members should also be looked upon with equal attention. Church hoppers are most often seeking teaching that suits their form of Christianity.
 3. We surely see this in the church today.
 There are churches who will receive homosexuals without repentance.
 There are churches who allow women to have leadership roles that are restricted to men.

- B. Paul is telling Timothy he is to preach while he has the opportunity – there were some counterfeit Christians in his church and the time would come that they will not endure or allow sound doctrine. This urgency is upon us all.
1. Eternity is quickly approaching – there must be urgency.
 2. This is the heart of Paul's opening words in **Verse 1**.
Jesus Christ will soon return to judge the living and the dead.
- IV. The Preacher is to resist the temptation to be a man pleaser
2 Timothy 4:3 NAU - "but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,"
- A. Every pastor faces times in which he is confronted by someone over something he has said from the pulpit.
1. The pastor must stand firm upon his convictions. He must be a man of principle – he must hold high God's standard. But this is also true of every Christian.
 2. This does not rule out the possibility that the pastor may be wrong
1 Timothy 5:19-20 NAU - "Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses. ²⁰ Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful *of sinning*."
 3. But when a pastor takes a firm Biblical position, he must stand firm no matter what the cost.
- B. All of us like to be held in high regard of others.
1. Our pride always seeks to be satisfied – no one wants to be disliked.
 2. Pastors like the nodding approval of their members.
The smiles of men must never bring us to forsake truth.
 3. All of us must maintain the attitude of the apostles.
Acts 5:29 – "We ought to obey God rather than men."
 4. This applies to all of us as we are tempted to compromise.
 - a. Joking with the folks at the office.
 - b. Trying to maintain peace with unbelieving family members.
- V. The Preacher is to remain constantly aware responsibility that surrounds his calling.
2 Timothy 4:5 NAU - "But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."
- A. "But you, be sober in all things"
1. It is the same word that speaks of being unaffected by alcoholic beverages.
 2. Our work on this earth is a serious work. It demands clear thinking.
We must be level-headed, not prone to wavering, not easily swayed, not easily turned aside after some new thing.
 3. How much more is this important in the life of a pastor. He must remain vigilant and sober-minded.
- B. "Endure hardship" – This implies difficulties will come. They must be borne with patience.
1. There will always be those who hate the gospel.
Those who desire sweet things to tickle their ears which means the pastor that preaches the truth can face great difficulty.
 2. There are the disappointments that accompany the work of a shepherd.

- C. "Do the work of an evangelist"
1. The N.T. evangelist had the responsibility of watering the churches planted by the Apostles.
 2. They carefully ministered the Word of God through preaching.
- D. "fulfill your ministry." – Our attention is directed back to Timothy's commission. His pastoral calling.
1. This is a high responsibility – it cannot be fulfilled by sleeping until 8 or 9 o'clock every morning.
 2. It can only be fulfilled by careful study, faithful preaching, diligent prayer, and great trust in the Great Shepherd
 3. Ear ticklers are not God's men. They are out to gratify their own lusts. The God-called Pastor must make full proof of his ministry

Conclusion:

1. You may be asking, So, what does all of this have to do with me? These verses are directed to pastors, to those called to preach the Word. God has called them to preach and watch and to be sober, but I'm not a pastor.
God expects every believer to take this life very seriously.
1 Corinthians 16:13-14 NAU - "Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. ¹⁴ Let all that you do be done in love."
1 Thessalonians 5:6 NAU - "so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober."
2. All of us have a Divine calling, both in our vocation and in our position in the church. Mine is that of pastor and I will be called to give account. But you too will be called to give account. – **See verse 1 Romans 14:12 NAU** - "So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God."