

“Preach the Word”

2 Timothy 4:1-5

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I. Introduction

A. Whenever I have been asked, “What do you see as the greatest need in the church today?” my answer has never changed. It is the preaching of God’s Word.

1. Paul charged Timothy in verse 2 to “preach the Word.”
2. In his book “Preaching and Preachers,” D. Martyn Lloyd Jones states, *“To me, the work of preaching is the highest and the greatest and the most glorious calling to which anyone can ever be called. The most urgent need in the Christian Church today is true preaching; and as it is the greatest and the most urgent need in the church, it is obviously the greatest need of the world also.”*

B. What is true preaching?

1. There’s a lot of confusion in the church today about preaching.
2. I believe that true preaching is expository preaching of God’s Word, the Bible.
3. *“The type of preaching that best carries the force of divine authority is expository preaching.”* – Haddon W. Robinson
4. Why?
 - a) Paul, in his last words to his young son in the faith, charges him to “preach the Word.”

II. The Charge to Preach the Word (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

A. The solemnness of the charge (v.1)

1. “Charge” is a solemn mandate which must be obeyed.
 - a) Illustration- Courtroom
 - b) It’s the pastor’s highest priority.
 - c) Paul tells Timothy to “devote himself to the public reading of Scripture, preaching Scripture, and teaching Scripture,” and goes on to say, “immerse yourself in them.” (1 Timothy 4:13, 15)

2. Paul calls on two witnesses (v.1)
 - a) God the Father (“before God”)
 - b) God the Son (“The Lord Jesus Christ”)
 - 1) Who is coming to judge the living and the dead
 - 2) We will give an account to God.
 - 3) “A Stewardship” (2 Corinthians 4:1)
- B. The statement of the charge (v.2)
 1. “Preach the Word” (v.2)
 - a) The first of five imperatives
 - b) A command that must be obeyed
 - c) “Preach” is the Greek “*kerusso*” or “to herald”
 - 1) Gravity (important and serious)
 - 2) Authority (the Scriptures)
 - 3) Accuracy (cannot change)
 - a. “Rightly divide” (2 Timothy 2:15)
 - d) What Timothy was to preach (v.2)
 - 1) The Holy Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:15)
 - 2) Sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:3)
 - 3) The truth (2 Timothy 4:4)
 - 4) The faith (2 Timothy 4:7)
 - e) To preach the Word is to preach expositional.
 - 1) Reading
 - 2) Explaining
 - 3) Applying the Word of God
 - 4) Illustration- Ezra the Priest (Nehemiah 8:8)
 - a. “Read the book”
 - b. “Gave the sense”
 - c. “Caused them to understand”
 - f) Definition of expository preaching
 - 1) Haddon W. Robinson wrote in his book “Biblical Preaching”

“Expository preaching is the communication of a biblical concept, derived from and transmitted through a historical, grammatical, and literary study of a passage in its context, which the Holy Spirit

first applies to the personality and experience of the preacher, then through the preacher, applies it to his hearers.”

- 2) *“Expository preaching at its core is more a philosophy than a method. Whether we can be called expositors starts with our purpose and with our honest answer to the question: “Do you, as a preacher, endeavor to bend your thought to the Scriptures, or do you use the Scriptures to support your thought?” – Haddon W. Robinson*
 - 3) In an expository sermon, the text governs the sermon.
 - 4) The preacher’s first aim is to discover the text writer’s intended meaning in its historical, grammatical, and theological context.
 - 5) The preacher’s second aim is to let the text speak again through the sermon, the same as the message of the text writer.
 - 6) Its foundation is a high view of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - 7) If you believe the Bible is the Word of God, and that it is sufficient, alive, and powerful, and that God still speaks through what He has spoken, then preach the Word!
2. Paul now gives four more commands that show us what should characterize our preaching of the Word.
- a) “Be instant in season and out of season” (v.2)
 - 1) “Be ready” or “be urgent”
 - 2) Urgency should characterize our preaching
 - 3) It’s always in season, so “be ready”
 - b) “Reprove” or “convince of sin”
 - 1) The Spirit of God through the Word of God
 - c) “Rebuke”
 - 1) A stronger word to “chide,” “censure,” or “blame”
 - a. Name sins
 - 2) Illustration- John the Baptist
 - 3) Our preaching will be characterized by its relevancy.
 - d) “Exhort”
 - 1) To encourage and comfort
 - a. The Holy Spirit is the “Comforter.”

- 2) How are we to comfort and encourage
 - a. “With all longsuffering” (v.2)
 - i. Preach “patiently” and “lovingly”
 - ii. Trust God’s Spirit to work
 - b. “And doctrine” (v.2)
 - i. Teaching
 - ii. Our preaching should be done intelligently
 - iii. We need more doctrine in our preaching
- 3) Our preaching should be done
 - a. Faithfully
 - i. “Preach the Word”
 - b. Urgently
 - i. “Be ready in season and out of season.”
 - c. Relevantly
 - i. “Reprove,” “rebuke,” “exhort”
 - d. Patiently
 - i. “With all longsuffering”
 - e. Intelligently
 - i. “And doctrine”

III. The Reason to Preach the Word (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

A. Three reasons to “preach the Word”

1. “For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine” (v.3)
2. “After their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears.” (v.3)
 - a) It’s an itch for novelty
 - b) “*They want preachers who will tickle their fancy, not trouble their conscience.*” – H.A. Ironside
3. “And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned to fables” (v.4)
 - a) The best way to protect the church from false teaching is by preaching the Word.

IV. The Call to Duty (2 Timothy 4:5)

- A. “Be sober minded”
 - 1. “Be alert”
 - 2. In the present tense
- B. “Endure all affliction”
 - 1. “Don’t be discouraged”
 - 2. “Don’t quit”
- C. “Evangelize the lost”
- D. “Fulfill your ministry”
 - 1. “Carry it out until its end”
 - 2. All Christian work

V. Conclusion

- A. We must obey the apostle’s charge and resolve to preach the Word expositively.
 - 1. Otherwise, we have no authority
 - 2. So that we know we are ministering in concert with the Holy Spirit
 - 3. So that we will not infringe upon Christ’s headship of the church
 - 4. Preach the Word!
- B. To give the Bible its rightful place is to bring glory to God, health to the church, and light to the world.