

Going: Next Door and Beyond

Oct. 24: Pouring Out Our Lives: 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Intro:

I. THE PASSIONATE PLEA—*1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge*

A. This is a CHARGE. It is the imperative for testimony or witness with *martyr* in the middle.

B. It is issued in view of a JUDGMENT to come.

C. It is issued in view of His appearing—he is coming back for us one way or the other. We are going to face him as the Judge of all the earth, the living and the dead.

D. And His kingdom—His kingdom is over all. All other kingdoms will be subjected to Jesus, put under his feet.

II. THE THREE-PRONGED CHARGE: *2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.*

A. Preach the Word—“Herald.” “Practice what you preach.” In this sense all of us “preach.” This refers to the truths that we communicate with passion and conviction. Make sure those truths are “the Word,” that they point others to the Savior and to the Good News of forgiveness in Christ.

B. Be prepared. The KJV, “be instant.” It means, “to be at hand, to be on time and ready.”

1. In season—when the moment is opportune

2. Out of season—when the moment is a surprise, unexpected and out of context

C. Correct, rebuke, and encourage

1. These are both difficult words that involve discipline. Correction is a tough word that demands explanation as well as offering an assessment of the false nature of one’s beliefs or actions. A rebuke is a calling to account, a disciplinary word.

2. This is *parakaleo*, the continual word of encouragement. This is what the correction and the rebuke are intended to do. They bring you alongside the brother, sister, or friend. They demonstrate your solidarity, that you are in this thing together. The rebuke and correction are intended to encourage.

3. with all patience—*makrothumia*, “long-suffering”

4. with careful instruction—*didache*—faithful teaching, doctrine.

III. THE ITCHING EARS TEMPTATION: *. 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.*

A. “put up with” means “to endure, hold up with.” The time will come when people in the church will not want to hear what is good and true.

B. “Sound doctrine” means “healthy” doctrine. It is an adjective often used to describe good health. Some teaching is sound—healthy, leading to good spiritual health.

Other teaching is sick, infirm, leading to weakness and sickness.

The ONLY SOUND DOCTRINE that I know of is the WORD OF GOD. Teaching THROUGH GOD'S WORD is the only protection against focusing on the BIASES and DESIRES of the flesh. This is why I almost always have a passage that I work through in my message to you. I don't want to expound my opinion, which is faulty, but the Scripture.

C. Sound doctrine will be replaced by what will "suit their own desires." By definition these are forbidden desires. They are the cravings of the flesh, the fallen nature.

D. Itching ears. An ITCH wants to be SCRATCHED. If you look hard enough and long enough you will find someone who is teaching something that suits your fancy. You will find your own prejudices reinforced. You will find teachings that will affirm your own lusts and cravings.

E. They will turn to "fables"—the word "muthos" from which we get "myth." It is "a fiction, a fable, an invention, a falsehood"

There are two turnings in this verse:

1. Turning FROM the truth. "To turn away or turn back." It is used to describe what Judas did with the 30 pieces of silver.

2. Turning TO fictions; "shall be turned"—"to turn or twist out," used to describe a dislocated limb

3. These myths are what constituted "the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers" (1 Peter 1:18). This is your "former way of life" (Eph. 4:22). You were taught to "put off your old self." Why? Because it "is being corrupted by its deceitful desires."

4. You can go back to the LIE. But one day you will remember that you find the Words of Life through ONE PERSON ONLY—Jesus the Christ.

IV. THE DISTINGUISHED YOU--*5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.*

A. KEEP YOUR HEAD. Rudyard Kipling started his poem "If" with that phrase: *If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you.* The idea here is CALM AND COLLECTED, circumspect and dispassionate.

B. ENDURE HARDSHIP. Be patient in troubles. When bad things come, don't lose your head or lose your faith. You need them both more than ever.

C. DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST. This is WORK now. You have work to do. The word "evangelist" has imbedded in it "good news." An evangelist is one who heralds good news especially in tough times of trouble and heartache. You keep speaking the good news even when evil times come.

D. DISCHARGE ALL THE DUTIES OF YOUR MINISTRY. Every Christian can hear this instruction because each one of us has a ministry, *diakonia*. KJV has "make full proof." It is a compound composed of "full" and "bear or wear." You are to fulfill your ministry at all times, especially in trouble.

V. BROKEN AND Poured OUT--*6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not*

only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

A. The time has come for my departure. Paul is about to die. He is in a Roman prison. He has been convicted. He awaits execution.

B. He is a drink offering being poured out. He uses this metaphor twice, here and in Phil. 2:17. He is sacrificing his life for the sake of Christ. He refers to his upcoming violent death.

C. THREE THINGS HE AFFIRMS:

1. I have fought the good fight. He has stayed engaged for the gospel all of these years.

2. I have finished the race. He sees now the end in sight for his assignment here on earth.

3. I have kept the faith. He has not denied the Lord Jesus even though it has cost him his life.

D. WHAT LIES IN STORE FOR HIM:

1. The crown of righteousness

2. Which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award

3. And which is laid up for all who LOVE HIS APPEARING, going back to the beginning.

CONCLUSION: You may have opportunity one day to contemplate your death as it draws near. I wonder what you will say.