

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Why We Must Preach The Word

2 Timothy 4:3-5

Keywords: Bible, Word of God, Scripture, Inspiration, Authority, Spiritual Growth
PowerPoint Presentation included: NONE
SermonAudio Blurb:

- I. Introduction.
 - A. Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5.
 - B. Review of last Sunday:
 1. Primary command is “preach” and the content of the preaching is “the Word.”
 2. I argued that there were four rationales to the urgent need for sound, clear, serious, thorough preaching:
 - a. Seriousness (1).
 - b. Timelessness (2a).
 - c. Value (2b).
 3. All of this is to be done in great patience and great instruction.
 - a. This is where the faithful pastor is shown to be faithful.
 - b. Not in size, not in conversions, not in programs or book sales.
 - c. Is he faithful to preach the Word?
 - d. Does he stay with it, especially when no one really seems to care if he does.
 - e. What happens to him as he watches one after another wander away? Does he change in midstream and begin to try other things rather than preaching the Word?
 - f. Does he soften his message, no longer reproofing or rebuking or exhorting?
 - g. Timothy and every other pastor after him needs to enter the task with the long view in his vision.

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- C. The final rationale is the reason Paul gives (3-4).
 - 1. There is a wordplay taking place that is worth noting. It has to do with the word “time.”
 - 2. In vs 2 there was the “in time” and the “out time.” And regardless Timothy was expected to be ready to preach.
 - 3. Now he picks up that idea of time here saying that a “time” will come when the type of preaching Paul is commanding will be ignored.
 - 4. Finally, look at vs 6 for another “time” that is very personal.
 - D. This final rationale unfolds in four succeeding statements.
 - 1. They alternate in negative and positive statements.
 - 2. They seem to show a progression, one leading to the next.
- II. The Reason for Preaching the Word (3-4).
- A. The first statement is essentially a boredom with hearing the Word preached.
 - 1. They will not “endure” sound doctrine.
 - 2. Other terms you could use would be “tolerate” or “put up with.” You may have heard it this way, “I am just so tired of hearing it. I just don’t care.”
 - 3. The boredom is not just with the doctrine/teaching but with the teacher as well. They are almost inextricable.
 - B. The second statement is a gathering of teachers that fit their personal desires.
 - 1. The driving basis for their decision is themselves—their desires.
 - a. In the PE “desires” are never used in a positive way. It is always selfish and sinful.
 - b. It is the type of desire that is not considering the source, the means of achieving it, or the end product. It just wants what it wants.

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- c. We see these type of people described relatively frequently in the New Testament.
 - (1) At the core it is Satanic (John 8:44).
 - (2) It is the result of sin (Romans 1:24).
 - (3) The Christian is given the power to overcome it (Romans 6:12). Which is done by the power of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16)
 - (4) James says that we are tempted because we are carried away and enticed by our own desires (1:14) which then leads to the source of our fightings and even murders (4:1ff)
 - (5) This is why Peter tells the church to be like obedient children and not allow ourselves to be again conformed to the desires when we did not know or follow Jesus (1 Peter 1:14).
 - (6) The list could go on but the point is obvious. We should have a very healthy suspicion to our desires.
 - (7) Simple principle is to be the type of person who takes his desires and then submits them to the Word. A mark of a mature Christian is that they are not given to being motivated by whatever desire wanders into their life.
- 2. These desires produce “itching ears” or “ears wanting to be tickled.”
 - a. The result is that they begin to build up a wealth of teachers who fit with their desires. It is almost like a stockpiling of teachers.
 - b. I think some of it comes from guilt. They have heard sound teaching. They know what it is and are bored with it.
 - c. They know what they are doing is wrong, but their ears need tickling. And all that matters is them, their needs, their happiness, their fulfillment

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- d. So they begin to amass as many teachers who agree with them so that they can drown out the voice of God in His Word. It is a work of self-justification.
3. Our culture is ripe for this.
 - a. We are not truth based but experience based.
 - b. So for many on a Sunday what they get is not the Word preached in or out of season. They get an event.
4. What is interesting here is that the reason there are so many false teachers out there in the church is because there are so many people in the church who seek them out.
5. Without these types of people false teaching in the church would simply fizzle away.
6. Listening only to teaching that we “like” can be the first step in ending up in heresy.
- C. The third is an active turning away from truth.
 1. This is where it becomes sad.
 2. Usually this is not the first step, it is the third or fourth step.
 3. Ask a person why they are leaving the church.
 - a. Usually it is because of family pressures or schedule issues.
 - b. Perhaps they are looking for something else that another church offers.
 - c. I know some who left ours because we didn’t have enough young men or women.
 4. There are those who legitimately and properly leave the church, they are not the focus of what Paul is saying here.
 5. It is the ones whose desires are not being met and so they go looking. It might start via the internet or the bookstore, but they are looking.
 6. From there they find a church that is toward the direction of their desires.

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7. But because desires are never satisfied in anything but Jesus Christ they keep moving.
 8. The term “turning aside” can refer to having a joint turned so as to be dislocated. I only point this out to remind you what one of the things the Word of God is profitable for: correction.
 9. Until they turn away from truth. Sad, in fact it is probably the saddest moment for a faithful pastor (parents of wayward children know this weight).
 10. But you can’t just turn from truth
- D. The fourth is the active turning to heresy.
1. And as they turn away, their eyes fall on every sort of false teacher alive.
 - a. You want money? Power? Health? Why there are teachers for you.
 - b. Want to go fighting imaginary demons? Room number 3.
 - c. Social justice? Sure, right over there.
 - d. Christian homosexual movement, yet we can help you there.
 - e. 12 step recovery? How about cross-dressers? Yep.
 - f. Are you into a mystical, contemplative world where there are little alcoves and prayer circles where you can commune in your own way? Just up the road and to the right.
 - g. How about a victimizing, self-help therapeutic gospel where Jesus died to make you feel good about yourself. A dime a dozen.
 - h. You interested in being part of a underground church supporting those who commit violence on abortionists?
 - i. How about being opposed to paying taxes so you are looking for the churches that make that their center of hope and existence.

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- j. Name your poison and there is a teacher or twenty who will take your time, money and soul.
 - k. I saw a church in Malibu that advertised that they communed with the Christ-spirit through a careful mix of incense and crystals. Right next to the advertisement for the dentist who only used crystals to heal you of every ailment around.
- 2. In every situation, once you scrape away the many words, rationales and excuses what you find is a steady movement away from apostolic teaching toward the opinions of man.
 - 3. Ultimately people “vote” with their ears. If they like what they hear, then they stay.
- E. Good teaching cannot be measured by people’s response; at least not ultimately, it must be measured by something higher.
- III. Timothy, Be The Opposite (5).
- A. So Paul turns his eyes upon Timothy again—“but you. . . .” Everything I just described I want you to do the exact opposite.
 - B. Be sober-minded.
 - 1. Speaks of a clear-mindedness. You are not muddled in thinking.
 - 2. It also refers to a sense of seriousness.
 - 3. One of the things I find so wearisome is 50-somethings who have spiked hair, skinny-jeans and fake tans trotting around on some stage trying to be cool.
 - 4. There is no place for the man who is up one day and down the next, jumping there and then here. Sober-mindedness is not rash. It is stable and careful. It considers the cost.
 - 5. It is serious work that a pastor is supposed to be doing. Remember 2 Timothy 2:15 or Hebrews 13:17.
 - 6. Compare those passages with a real pastor with a real website that tells pastors how to dress.
 - a. From the site: Our fascination with fashion is really just a microcosm of our desire to be clothed in the ultimate

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designer—Jesus Christ. Until we put on the grace and mercy of Jesus we're all stitched in sin and cut up with compromise. But In Jesus, God has provided us a seamless garment; a perfect wardrobe so that we can discover what true fashion is really all about.

So don't think that the focus is all about what suit you pick or what shoes you wear. Yes, we need to try our best to look our best. But the real question is about our eternal wardrobe. So when it comes down to it, who are you wearing?

- b. Then it teaches you about the shoulder bag but because this is a Christian site, it is now called a Kingdom Kit. It has your bible and probably an iPad in it.
- c. Then there is the key post entitle, "A Fresh New Kind of Pocket Square: The Pochette"

C. Suffer for the right things.

- 1. Paul calls him to suffer hardship, suffer for the gospel.
- 2. This man teaches you a new way to fold your pocket square.

D. Be an evangelist.

- 1. This was one of the unique gifts Timothy had and Paul expected him to fulfill it.
- 2. The evangelist was not what we often perceive as one. He would be a church planter, going where the gospel is not well known and staying until a church was established.

E. Finish your calling.

- 1. It is the idea of finishing the race.
- 2. Not turning to the left or the right.
- 3. God has called us all to a life. Each is different but each is built on the foundation of Jesus Christ. Paul would tell you, finish it.

IV. Conclusion.

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- A. Apart from the grace of God in any of our lives we would be those turning aside.
- B. So let us be sober-minded and careful. Let us encourage one another each day to trust in the sufficiency of Jesus and to be all the more established in the Word.

Small Group Questions

- How does modern mobility and technology help ears to be tickled?
- Talk about the nature of doing things and hearing things we “like” and how that can be a grave danger in our faith?
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