

**I TIMOTHY 4:11-16**  
**EXPOSITORY PREACHING!**

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to I Timothy chapter 4 as we continue our in-depth study of this letter that Paul wrote to Timothy who was leading the church in Ephesus. Paul had him stay there to correct some of the problems that had arisen in that church.

Keep in mind that when we began digging into this chapter, I Timothy chapter 4, the focus was on the apostasy, the false teaching that had come into the church and how Timothy was to correct that problem.

Remember what Paul said, **“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.”** I Timothy 4:1-5.

From there Paul is dealing with what a good pastor is all about, as apposed to the false teachers with their false doctrine. And this is found in I Timothy 4:6-16. We have covered some of these verses already.

Look at what Paul has shown us in regard to what a good pastor is all about. A good pastor . . .

***He will watch out for false teachers and warn his people against their false teaching.***

(I Timothy 4:6)

***He will be a student of the Word himself.*** (I Timothy 4:6)

***He stays focused on his own spiritual growth and doesn't let anything distract him from that.*** (I Timothy 4:7-9)

***He is committed to hard work.*** (I Timothy 4:10)

***He is a strong leader.*** (I Timothy 4:11)

***He is an example for other believers to follow.*** (I Timothy 4:12)

***He honors God's Word and makes it the focus.*** (I Timothy 4:13)

***He is completely committed to the principles of Christian maturity found in the Word of God.*** (I Timothy 4:14-15)

***He is faithful and steady in his course for God.*** (I Timothy 4:16)

To fight against these false doctrines and these false teachers that are coming into the church you need a strong pastor who is passionate about teaching and building people up in the faith. That is why I have called our study this morning – ***EXPOSITORY PREACHING!***

Now some of you may not know what I am speaking about when I say, "***expository preaching.***"

Please understand that this is not speaking of topical studies but verse by verse study on the Word of God. Not that topical studies are evil or wrong, but you can't live on a diet of topical studies!

Let me explain what expository preaching is all about.

Expository preaching involves the exposition, or comprehensive explanation, of the Scripture; that is, expository preaching presents the meaning and intent of a biblical text, providing commentary and examples to make the passage clear and understandable. The word exposition is related to the word expose - the expository preacher's goal is simply to expose the meaning of the Bible, verse by verse.

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Let me also say this. Expository preaching is not very popular today because it does not entertain us. And like back in Timothy's day, we need to be encouraged to continue on preaching the Word of God.

And I will dig into this issue of expository preaching and explain why we teach that way here at Calvary Chapel of Manitowoc as we look at these verses here in I Timothy this morning.

Let me share these words from Walter Kaiser as he looks at where the church is at, the problems due to the diet that has been given to the people. He wrote,

***It is no secret that Christ's Church is not at all in good health in many places of the world. She has been languishing because she has been fed, as the current line has it, "junk food" all kinds of artificial preservatives and all sorts of unnatural substitutes have been served up to her.***

***As a result, theological and Biblical malnutrition has afflicted the very generation that has taken such giant steps to make sure its physical health is not damaged by using foods or products that are carcinogenic or otherwise harmful to their physical bodies.***

*Simultaneously a worldwide spiritual famine resulting from the absence of any genuine publication of the Word of God (Amos 8:11) continues to run wild and almost unabated in most quarters of the church.*

- Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., *Toward and Exegetical Theology*, pp. 7-8

The cure for this sickness, this illness is – ***EXPOSITORY PREACHING!***

Now some of you may be thinking, ***“This isn’t for me. I am not a pastor. So really, what is the point?”***

Keep in mind that Paul wrote this letter to Timothy to encourage him and to show us how we are to conduct ourselves in the church, what the church is all about. (I Timothy 3:15)

Not only that, but these letters were also read and taught in the church, so all heard what Paul wrote to Timothy as well.

And, as I have said, the church is not a building or a denomination or non-denomination for that matter. The church is you and me, we are part of the body of Christ! So this is for all of us. We need to understand these things, or we can easily lose sight of what we are to be about!

I have broken down the verses we will be looking at this morning into the following main points. They are,

***DON’T BE SWAYED – I TIMOTHY 4:11-12***

***EXPOSITORY PREACHING – I TIMOTHY 4:13***

***PRESS ON – I TIMOTHY 4:14-16***

So with that as our introduction, let’s begin reading in I Timothy chapter 4, beginning in verse 11 and let’s see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and we look at this topic –

***EXPOSITORY PREACHING!***

**I TIMOTHY 4****VERSES 11-12**

The focus here is – ***DON'T BE SWAYED!***

In other words, don't let people stop you from what you were called to do.

The idea here is this. What Paul is saying to Timothy was to take a stand. One writer put it like this in regard to this verse here in I Timothy 4:11. He wrote, ***“This has the note of authority. Timothy was not to enter the pulpit with speculations and opinions and theories of men. He was to fearlessly bring God’s Word before God’s people and let the chips fall where they may.”***

Let's face it, when you speak forth the Word of God with the boldness of the Spirit, you are going to offend some people.

Over the years I am sure that I have made many uncomfortable and they may have even gotten mad at me for saying what I said.

I do teach the Word of God passionately, but let's face it, if I was not passionate about what God is saying in His Word, then I should not be up here, plain and simple.

If I offend someone, I am sorry, but I am not going to change what God's Word has to say to make people more comfortable.

That means that in Ephesus there were problems with these false teachers and many in the church were standing up for them, supporting them. Thus, Paul is telling Timothy to not be swayed from the truth of God found in the Word of God. You teach these things to the congregation no matter if they want to hear it or they don't!

And please understand that this is not only for pastors. It is for all of us. We are not to be swayed into moving away from a Biblical worldview and move towards a secular worldview.

And yet, that is what the church has done!

Here is something that you can do to see if what is being spoken at a church or with an individual is of God or not!

Is what they are teaching or saying found in the Bible or is it what the world is telling you to believe?

It sounds so simple and yet, look at the confusion that is in the church regarding this.

I was talking with some young people a few years back, Christians, and I was amazed at how secular their views were.

Let me give you this example of what took place in this conversation I had with them.

Now this is pretty basic and yet, the confusion that is spoken regarding this issue blew my mind.

What is the issue?

The issue is – ***ABORTION!***

Keep in mind that these young people were in their thirties, we are not talking about teenagers here. And they have been Christians for many years.

And they were trying to explain to me why abortion was okay. That the Bible really doesn't speak about this issue and thus, it is not a sin, there is nothing wrong with it.

At first, I was like a deer in the headlights. I could not believe what I was hearing. How can Christians think like that?

So I went to the Scriptures, not my feelings. And I shared with them verses that they knew very well.

The first one I shared was Psalm 139:13-16, **“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.”**

First of all, we see that it is God who formed us and when you look at the human body, make no mistake about it, we are **“fearfully and wonderfully made.”**

Think about this, and it is just a small amount of information on how fearfully and wonderfully we are made.

Our brains, which weigh some 3 pounds and is composed of 12 billion neurons each connected to about ten-thousand other neurons in the most complicated arrangement known to man. There are 120 trillion connections in the human brain, and not by random chance!

Not only that, but if all the blood vessels in your body were laid end-to-end, they would reach some 60,000 miles!

As the sperm enters the egg, it is amazing to watch live pictures of the human cell dividing, each cell knowing exactly what to do, for it has been encoded by our master, the Lord.

And then, at the end of 9 months, this child that has been developing in the womb takes his first breath out of the womb, and we see a miracle take place before our very eyes.

In a book called *“A Child Is born”* the author says, ***“How can the cells of a developing embryo know what they are going to be? How can the cells that have never seen a hand, let alone made one, know what to do? Nobody can give exact answers to these questions yet, but we are beginning to understand roughly what happens.”***

I laugh at that. It is amazing how these learned men can't explain it, but I can! I can tell you how it happens, God has formed us!

David, not able to see what we see today, and yet he recognized that God put us together, his soul attests to this fact.

And God not only knit us together, but He has our days planned out for us. Life begins at conception – **PERIOD!**

But they tried to justify their answer with worldly ideas. ***“No one really knows when life begins!”***

Really! Then, why in Jeremiah 1:5 are we told, **“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”**

Just as God formed Jeremiah, knew him before he was even conceived, God knows us and has set us apart for a work that He wants us to do. He prepared the work for us, and He has prepared us for the work and all we must do is walk.

You see, God has a plan for our life; we need to take those steps of faith as He leads us.

And the last one I will share is from Exodus 20:13, which says, **“You shall not murder.”**

Abortion is murder, plain and simple. Life is a gift from God, may we not take that lightly or destroy what God has given to us!

Again, they could not give me a Biblical answer for what they wanted to believe, that abortion was okay.

And I am sorry if I offend anyone here, but I really don't care what you feel on this subject, I care about what God has to say. Feelings can be wrong, but God is **NEVER** wrong! Feelings can change, but God **NEVER** changes!

Where did they get these ideas if they did not get them from God?



They got them from the world and really, from their pastor or teachers who received these things from the world and not from God!

Let me share this article with you about a woman who is pro-abortion and a Christian and listen to how she justifies her beliefs. We are told,

Ellis is author of a recent essay, *“Why I’m a pro-choice Christian and believe you should be too.”* One of her biggest criticisms of abortion rights opponents is that *“often these activists fail to support other political causes that preserve the life of the child after being born.”* [What I think she means by this is that we don’t support illegal immigration.]

We have to be really careful when we try to take a topic as complicated as abortion and try to justify it or condemn it through a single verse or a couple of verses that are taken out of context. The Bible is an incredibly complicated book written by multiple people over different historical and social contexts. It could be irresponsible to just pull out a sentence or two and relate them to 21st-century America. The Bible does not talk explicitly about abortion, pro or con in any kind of way. It’s just not there. . .

I wish people would understand that you can be a Christian and not oppose abortion. Just because somebody is pro-choice doesn’t mean that they hate life or babies or the Bible or God. The power of the religious right is so strong that so many Christians have a hard time conceiving that somebody could be on the other side of this issue.

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What I want you to see here is why she feels that abortion is not a problem. Again, if you are in agreement with her, I don't mean to offend you, but this is what she is saying, ***“Has God indeed said!”*** It is what the Serpent said to Eve in the Garden of Eden, and it is what he does today, get people to doubt God's Word!

And that is truly what these young people I was speaking to were telling me as well.

***“Has God indeed said!”***

And the pressure is on to get us to compromise and that is why Paul is telling Timothy to continue on – ***DON'T BE SWAYED!***

And to help Timothy out here, we see Paul give him these encouraging words, **“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”** I Timothy 4:12.

Remember, Timothy was young and thus, Paul tells him, **“Let no one despise your youth.”**

That word **“young”** speaks of someone who is under forty years of age. Thus, Timothy was probably in his late 30's; he had not established himself with the people, his credibility with the people, not like Paul.

Make no mistake about it, they knew Timothy, but it was this age thing. You see, they tended to keep those who were much older in high esteem and rejected youth. But we need to remember that God used many young people to do His work, like Daniel and Jeremiah and even Mary!

Thus, Paul wants to encourage him by telling him that his age won't matter if he lives what he believes and as he does, others will notice, he will be an example to them.

In fact, when Paul says, “**but be an example to the believers**” the Greek word means “*model*” or “*pattern*” to them. In other words, what you are saying is a copy of what you are doing!

Paul lists six things that should be manifested in his life.

First by “**word**” or the things he says.

Then by “**conduct**” or how he lived his life, the things he did.

In “**love**” which speaks of his sacrifice towards others.

Then in “**spirit**” which may speak of his attitude.

In “**faith**” which is service with eternity in view, not focused on the temporal things.

And in “**purity**” which speaks of a sexually pure life.

It is as Paul said in Philippians 4:9, “**The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.**”

This is not just for a pastor or minister, but our lives should be an example to others of what God has done and is doing in us!

One author put it this way, “*[This is a] quality strangely lacking from the make-up of many Christians. Plenty of enthusiasm for a football match, or for an election campaign, but so little of it for the service of GOD. How the magnificent enthusiasm of the Christian Scientists, the Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Communists should put us to shame. Oh, for the flaming zeal again that once the church knew.*”

May our lives be an example to others of how we live out our faith!

As your pastor, that is my heart’s desire, that I would reflect the nature of Jesus in all that I say and all that I do. And yes, I have a long way to go, but if I am just telling you how to live out your Christian faith and I am living like the devil, something is wrong!

And here's the thing. As you live accordingly, then you can command and teach the people that God has entrusted to you. And that is not just for pastors, as I have said. In your home. At work. In the neighborhood. Wherever you go let your conduct match what you say you believe!

But there is such a push for us to be more like the world and to act more like the world that we are being swayed by the pressure of the world instead of being guided by God and His Word!

Way back in 1989 Bill Hybels, who was the pastor of Willow Creek Church, wrote these words that have infiltrated churches across America. Listen carefully to what he wrote,

*Unchurched people today are the ultimate consumers. We may not like it, but for every sermon we preach, they're asking, "Am I interested in that subject or not?" If they aren't, it doesn't matter how effective our delivery is; their minds will check out.*

- Bill Hybels, Mastering Contemporary Preaching, p. 27

What is that problem with that?

First, people are consumers and thus, you must give them what **THEY** want!

Second, it is about how we deliver the message and not about the Holy Spirit touching the hearts of the people!

And because these consumers don't want to hear things that would offend them, teaching that would go against their sin, those subjects are avoided, they are not taught on!

Here's the thing. Are you going to let the world sway you? As I have said, don't let the world sway you, let the Lord and His Word guide you!

As one writer put it, “The preacher who brings the message people most *need* to hear will often be the preacher they least *like* to hear. But anything less than a commitment to expository preaching by the preacher will reduce his sheep to a weak, vulnerable, and shepherdless flock.”

(John MacArthur)

So – ***DON'T BE SWAYED!***

As we read on, we will be looking at – ***EXPOSITORY PREACHING!***

### VERSE 13

Remember that Paul was planning on returning to Ephesus. Now we don't know if that happened or not, but until he did, Timothy was to read the Word of God, exhort the people in the Word of God, teach them the Word of God.

And in the Greek, it implies that there was some preparation before he taught showing that he was committed to the work, the study of Scriptures, he prepared himself before he taught.

I knew a person who said he didn't prepare, he just got up and taught as the Spirit lead him.

That may sound spiritual, but it is not, it is just plain laziness!

Again, you can't give to others what you yourself have not received!

Each study I do takes about 6 to 8 hours, I am not boasting, but if I don't study, if I don't prepare, then you are going to get a lot of hot air, nothing that you will be able to take with you to help you to grow.

In Nehemiah 8:8 we see what they did, and it is truly what we are to do. We are told, **“So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.”** Nehemiah 8:8.

Notice again what they did.

***They read the Word of God!***

***They explained the Word of God!***

***They applied the Word of God to the people's lives.***

We call it expository preaching and we do that from Genesis through the book of Revelation, verse by verse!

That practice needs to continue on if people are going to grow in their faith!

One commentator had this to say regarding what is happening in the church today and what needs to be done. He wrote,

Biblical preaching's authenticity is significantly tarnished by contemporary communicators who are more concerned with personal relevance than with God's revelation.

Scripture unmistakably requires a proclamation focused on God's will and mankind's obligation to obey.

With men wholly committed to God's Word, the expository pattern commends itself as preaching that is true to the Bible.

Expositions presupposes an exegetical process to extract the God-intended meaning of Scripture and an explanation of that meaning in a contemporary way.

The biblical essence and apostolic spirit of expository preaching needs to be recaptured in the training and preaching of men who are freshly committed to "preaching the Word."

- John MacArthur, *Rediscovering Expository Preaching*, p. 3

What we are seeing today is a move away from Biblical teaching and into experience-centered teaching. The problem with that is it is not Biblical and since you are not using the Bible for your text or you are making the text say what you want it to say instead of what God intends it to say, is that you are giving worldly advice! And that is dangerous, and we are seeing the results of that today. And we see it with what people believe!

Remember the warning that Paul gave the Colossian church back in Colossians 2:8-10, **“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”**

Listen to how The Amplified Bible puts these verses. We are told, **“See to it that no one carries you off as spoil or makes you yourselves captive by his so-called philosophy and intellectualism and vain deceit (idle fancies and plain nonsense), following human tradition (men’s ideas of the material rather than the spiritual world), just crude notions following the rudimentary and elemental teachings of the universe and disregarding [the teachings of] Christ (the Messiah). For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature]. And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and reach full spiritual stature]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power].”**

I think that nails it. Now I am not saying that experience is wrong, or we should not teach about experiences we have with God. But the key is that our experience has to match up with the Word of God. We are not to give our feelings or ideas that contradict the Word of God.

Think about these statements for a minute.

***“The visible church in our generation has become astonishingly tolerant of aberrant teaching and outlandish ideas – and frighteningly intolerant of sound teaching.”*** (John MacArthur)

How true a statement that is. We see it from accepting homosexuality, transgenderism, abortion, immoral lifestyles and so much more. And yet, when it comes to gathering together and learning from the Bible, that is hateful! No, that is what is needed.

How are you going to know what is right and what is wrong?

***“I go by what I feel!”***

If that is your answer, look out because you are moving away from what God has said in His Word. Your heart is deceitful, and so is mine, and yet you are going to trust your feelings?

Sorry, I will trust what God has said in His Word!

***“Secularism cannot be blamed on the secularists, many of whom were raised in the church. We are the problem. If most churchgoers cannot tell us anything specific about the God they consider meaningful or explain basic doctrines of creation in God’s image, original sin, the atonement, justification, sanctification, the means of grace, or the hope of glory, then the blame can hardly be placed at the feet of secular humanists.”*** (Michael Horton)

We have become Biblically illiterate today and it has opened the door for all kinds of false teaching to come into the church.



Let me share this with you and you will see what I mean. We are told,

A candidate for church membership was asked, *“What part of the Bible do you like best?”*

He said: *“I like the New Testament best.”*

Then he was asked, *“What Book in the New Testament is your favorite?”*

He answered, *“The Book of the Parables, Sir.”*

They then asked him to relate one of the parables to the membership committee. And a bit uncertain, he began . . .

*“Once upon a time a man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves; and the thorns grew up and choked the man. And he went on and met the Queen of Sheba, and she gave that man, Sir, a thousand talents of silver, and a hundred changes of raiment. And he got in his chariot and drove furiously, and as he was driving along under a big tree, his hair got caught in a limb and left him hanging here! And he hung there many days and many nights. The ravens brought him food to eat and water to drink. And one night while he was hanging there asleep, his wife Delilah came along and cut off his hair, and he fell on stoney ground. And it began to rain, and it rained forty days and forty nights. And he hid himself in a cave.*

*Later he went on and met a man who said, ‘Come in and take supper with me.’ But he said, ‘I can’t come in, for I have married a wife.’ And the man went out into the highways and hedges and compelled him to come in!*

*He then came to Jerusalem and saw Queen Jezebel sitting high and lifted up in a window of the wall. When she saw him, she laughed, and he said, 'Throw her down out of there,' and they threw her down. And he said, 'Throw her down again,' and they threw her down seventy-times-seven. And the fragments which they picked up filled twelve baskets full! NOW, whose wife will she be in the day of the Judgment?"*

The membership committee agreed that this was indeed a knowledgeable candidate!

- Source Unknown

Now we laugh at that, but how many people believe that the Bible says, ***"God helps those who help themselves"***? It is not in there so don't go looking it up or trying to look it up!

*"If we go astray in our doctrine, eventually our life will go astray as well. You cannot separate what a man believes from what he is. For this reason doctrine is vitally important. Certain people say ignorantly, 'I do not believe in doctrine; I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ; I am saved, I am a Christian, and nothing else matters.' To speak in that way is to court disaster, and for this reason, the New Testament itself warns us against this very danger. We are to guard ourselves against being 'tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine', for if your doctrine goes astray your life will soon suffer as well. So it behoves us to study the doctrines in order that we may safeguard ourselves against certain erroneous and heretical teachings that are as rife and as common in the world today as they were in the days of the early Church."* (Martyn Lloyd-Jones)

I truly believe that this is the problem, people are ignorant of the Word of God and their life becomes a reflection of that!

*“I am convinced that there is an urgent need in the church today for much greater understanding of Christian doctrine, or systematic theology. Not only pastors and teachers need to understand theology in greater depth – the **WHOLE CHURCH** does as well. One day by God’s grace we may have churches full of Christians who can discuss, apply and **LIVE** the doctrinal teachings of the Bible as readily as they can discuss the details of their own jobs or hobbies – or the fortunes of their favorite sports team or television program.”* (Wayne Grudem)

I truly believe we need to get back to the basics. In fact, on Saturdays and Sundays on our radio station we have a series of studies that I did a long time ago called – **FOUNDATION OF FAITH!**

And Max and I felt it was important to air these studies again because we need to get back to the basics of our faith. Too many people are going here and there and being tossed to and fro because they don’t know the basics of the Christian faith!

The key, of course, is not just reading the Scriptures to the people.

It is not just explaining what the text is saying.

It is not just about applying those verses to your life.

It is all three that are important and that is why we follow that pattern here at Calvary Chapel.

And again, all this is done to help us to grow in the Lord.

The first study I ever did here at Calvary Chapel Manitowoc, over twenty-eight years ago, was based on Acts 2:42 which says, “**And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.**”

Preaching and teaching God’s Word is not only the highest calling of a minister, but it is what we are to do!

Tragically many have moved away from sound doctrine and spend their time on non-essentials; foolish things while their sheep starve!

As Charles Spurgeon wrote, ***“Sound teaching is the best protection from the heresies which ravage right and left among us.”***

He lived from 1834 to 1892, over 130 years ago and yet, he saw the problem way back then and now take a look at where we are today!

Think about this story for a minute. We are told,

The officer in charge of the royal pew in the chapel at Windsor, England, noted that King George frequently commented on the sermon as he left the church.

If he had been blessed by it, he would say in a cheerful voice, ***“That will do very well. That will feed souls!”***

When the preacher’s delivery was cold and his words were lifeless and barren of Gospel teaching, he would shake his head sorrowfully as he left the pew and mutter under his breath, ***“That won’t do. That just won’t feed souls!”***

The king’s criterion for determining the value of a sermon is scripturally sound. Ministry of all kinds, whether oral or written, may well be judged by the same standard - does it feed souls?

- Our Daily Bread

And I will add to that or maybe sum it up. Does it feed our spirit, or does it feed the flesh? As you feed your spirit, you will grow, you will mature in your faith. As you feed your flesh it will not help you to grow in the Lord.

The Spirit being fed will be manifested with the fruit of the Spirit being manifested in your life.

The flesh being fed will be manifested with the works of the flesh being manifested in your life and it will not be pretty!

It is as Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 4:2-5, and I have shared this many times over the last several months, but it is what needs to be done in the days when people don't want to hear the Word of God.

This is from The Amplified Bible and Paul wrote, **“Herald and preach the Word! Keep your sense of urgency [stand by, be at hand and ready], whether the opportunity seems to be favorable or unfavorable. [Whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether it is welcome or unwelcome, you as preacher of the Word are to show people in what way their lives are wrong.] And convince them, rebuking and correcting, warning and urging and encouraging them, being unflagging and inexhaustible in patience and teaching. For the time is coming when [people] will not tolerate (endure) sound and wholesome instruction, but, having ears itching [for something pleasing and gratifying], they will gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors they hold, And will turn aside from hearing the truth and wander off into myths and man-made fictions. As for you, be calm and cool and steady, accept and suffer unflinchingly every hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fully perform all the duties of your ministry.”**

Now I do realize that when we are giving a message we need to do so with passion. Not because we are trying to be something we are not. But if God's Word has moved you then you need to let the people know and that is not always done because I think some are not moved or excited about what God has given to them.

In fact, many times false teachers are more excited about bringing their false message, their false gospel than ministers of God are presenting the Word of God to their people. Let me show you what I mean.

We are told,

A man went to see his doctor for advice about being cured of snoring. The doctor asked, ***“Does your snoring disturb your wife?”***

The patient replied, ***“Does it disturb my wife? Why it disturbs the entire congregation.”***

- Source Unknown

Funny and I will leave it like that. But if you have been with us here for any amount of time you know that I am passionate about teaching the Word of God. I get excited to teach God's Word because I look forward to hearing what He is going to say through me. And yes, the messages are put together, and I know them, but God is always speaking, and I want to be listening!

Let me share this with you because it will show you that this was the practice of the early church, expository preaching and it needs to be the practice of the church today. We are told,

Not only did Christian churches adopt the custom of the reading of the Old Testament from the synagogues – they added to it readings from the apostles' letters and the Gospels (cf. Colossians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:27).

This meant that the apostolic church put the apostles' writings on the same level as the Old Testament. The early church had two public readings – one from a portion of the Old Testament, and then from the apostolic writings.

Justin Martyr wrote just after the close of the first century: “On the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs [journals or letters] of the apostles and the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has finished, the president speaks, instructing and exhorting the people to imitate these good things.”

As John Stott, the acknowledged master of Biblical exposition in the English-speaking world, has said, “It was taken for granted from the beginning that Christian preaching would be expository preaching, that is, that all Christian instruction and exhortation would be drawn out of the passage which had been read.”

Therefore, any preaching that does not guide the listener through the Scriptures is an aberration from the apostolic practice.

- R. Kent Hughes, Bryan Chapell, 1-2 Timothy and Titus, p.124

I hope that is clear. We are not doing anything special or different, we are doing what the early church was doing, speaking forth the Word of God and building people up in the faith.

And here's the thing. We need to fulfill our role in the ministry that God has given to us, and it is all centered upon the Word of God! It is what is needed in our lives, and it is what needs to be preached – ***EXPOSITORY PREACHING!***

As we finish up this morning, we will be looking at what we are to do – ***PRESS ON!***

VERSES 14-16

Here we see that Timothy is warned not to ignore or lay aside or bury the spiritual gifts that God has given to Him.

What a great lesson for us to heed and apply to our lives. It seems that the elders in Timothy's home church, the elders in Lystra and Derbe, prophesied and laid hands-on Timothy before they sent him out with Paul on his journey.

Thus, to negate God's call on his life that was confirmed by prophetic utterances would be wrong.

And then Paul speaks of meditation and when we think of meditation, we often think of emptying our minds, a kind of eastern meditation.

That is not at all what Paul is calling for Timothy to do. Paul wants Timothy to fill his mind with the Word of God.

We are good at filling our minds with all kinds of things, but when it comes to God's Word we stumble.

We can know all about music and movie stars, all kinds of statistics of sports stars, but how important is that? Not at all and when it comes to God's Word, that is what we need to know.

Paul, in Romans 12:1-2 said, **"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."**



May we fill our minds with the Word of God, to give our whole being to the Lord so that we may grow in the Lord and be an example to others!

It is as Paul said in I Corinthians 15:10, **“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”**

Spiritual growth doesn't just happen, yes, it is a gift of God, but there is the work on our part, we too must labor and grow!

Look at what Paul is basically saying to Timothy. ***“Timothy, keep a close eye on the life you live and on the doctrine that you are teaching!”***

That is an important aspect for all of us. What we do and what we say, may they match up and may they be in line with God and His Word.

When Paul is speaking of saving yourself and those who hear you, I don't think Paul is speaking of the salvation of your soul here, that is not the context of this chapter.

I believe he is speaking of false doctrine and not only Timothy falling prey to it and being in bondage to it because he is not in the Word of God, but leading others down that same dangerous path. In other words, ***“Timothy, save your soul and the souls of others from these false doctrines that are blowing through the church. And the way to do that Timothy is by taking in and teaching the Word of God because the truth will set you free from the lies that are out there!”***

So, we are not to be swayed from bringing forth the truths of God found in the Word of God.

I see that happening as I have said. It is as the Lord said through the prophet Amos, **“Behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord God, ‘That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, And from north to east; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, But shall not find it.”** Amos 8:11-12.

Look at people today who are looking for churches that teach the Word of God and they can't find them. And I am not talking about small communities, but big cities. There truly is a famine here in America for the teaching of God's Word!

Look at what we have seen.

***DON'T BE SWAYED*** – don't move from the course that God has for your life. Stay true to His Word! Don't let the world influence your life, let the Word of God opened up by the Spirit of God guide you in all that you do and say!

***EXPOSITORY PREACHING*** – in other words, and this is simple and yet many miss out on this, ***read the Word of God, explain the Word of God and apply the Word of God to the people's lives.***

***PRESS ON*** – and we need to be encouraged here because there are so many that are coming against what we believe, and they want us to compromise our faith and become more like the world! Don't do that, press on!

As I close this morning, let me leave you with Paul's words from Philippians 3:12-16, as he said, "**Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.**"

Let us – *PRESS ON!*