

II TIMOTHY 4:1-5
PREACH THE WORD!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to II Timothy chapter 4 as we continue our in-depth study of Paul's second and last letter to his son in the faith, Timothy!

We have spent the last three weeks going over II Timothy 3:16-17 because the point that Paul is making here flows into what he is charging Timothy to do.

Remember what we read, **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**

What we have in our hands, the Bible, is given to us by God, not by man. That means what God has told us from Genesis through Revelation we are to trust because it is truth. God's Word is truth.

Think about it. What if, like some would have you believe, some of the Bible was truth and some was just what the writer wanted to put into it.

How would you know what is truth or what is from God and what is the opinion of the writer?

You wouldn't be able to tell. If you tried, that would be your opinion and when you have a group of people together, they may all disagree on what they feel is from God and what is not.

But Paul tells us that **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God . . .”** We don't have to guess because it is all from God to us to learn from. In other words, it is – ***PROFITABLE*** to us!

If you want to be used by God, then know, read, learn, apply God's Word to your life. It is as simple as that.

In saying that, the Devil and his demons know that the truth will set us free from the lies that are out there, and the truth of God's Word is what I am speaking of here.

And thus, the demonic forces diminish God's Word, they alter God's Word, they get people not to trust God's Word and as they do, they move people farther and farther from God.

How do I know that?

Because when you look at what they believe, the sin that they now approve of, they can't get that by reading the Word of God or if they read it, they change what it is saying to fit their sinful ways. And we see that in the church today accepting all kinds of sinful practices.

Listen to the warning that Charles Spurgeon gave to us. Keep in mind that Charles Spurgeon wrote over 130 years ago! This is what he wrote, "I may add that this last remark has gained more force in our times; it is among uninstructed flocks that the wolves of popery [Papal system of doctrines that they have made] make havoc; ***sound teaching is the best protection from the heresies which ravage right and left among us.***"

I would agree and it is far worse in our day than in his day and yet, many do not seem concerned. They are not interested in the truth no matter what you show them. They are more interested in what makes them feel good instead of what is truth!

Because of that what we are seeing today is that the church has become an entertainment center, and the people are the consumers that have to have their needs met or they will look for their entertainment elsewhere, at another church. And we see people moving from one church to another church to another church and it goes on and on, I am sad to say.

Let me show you what I mean. We are told,

For centuries the Church stood solidly against every form of worldly entertainment, recognizing it for what it was – a device for wasting time, a refuge from the disturbing voice of the conscience, a scheme to divert attention from moral accountability.

For this she got herself abused roundly by the sons of this world.

But of late she has become tired of the abuse and has given over the struggle. She appears to have decided that she cannot conquer the great god Entertainment she may as well join forces with him and make use she can of his powers.

So today we have the astonishing spectacle of millions of dollars being poured into the unholy job of providing earthly entertainment for the so-called sons of heaven.

Religious entertainment is in many places rapidly crowding out the serious things of God.

Many churches these days have become little more than poor theaters where fifth-rate “producers” peddle their shoddy wares with the full approval of evangelical leaders who can even quote a holy text in defense of their delinquency.

And hardly a man dares raise his voice against it.

- A. W. Tozer

Do you know when that was written?

Not ten years ago or twenty years ago or even thirty years ago but over sixty years ago It was A. W. Tozer who wrote that. (He died in 1963)

And people did not heed the warning and look at where we are today! And if you speak up against this, they will come against you!

Let me give you an example of this entertainment, and there are many, but this just happened.

Listen carefully to this church service and what took place.

We are told,

An Evangelical megachurch in Ohio kicked off Super Bowl weekend - literally - with a sermon that had all of social media buzzing.

Pastors with Crossroads Church in Cincinnati, a multi-site interdenominational church that boasts a weekly congregation of roughly 34,000, ***“punted”*** a copy of the Bible as part of its ***“Super Bowl of Preaching”*** series.

The sermon was delivered on Feb. 11, just hours before the Kansas City Chiefs topped the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl LVIII.

With play-by-play announcers, color commentary, a referee, and a stage covered in AstroTurf, the Crossroads pulpit resembled Allegiant Stadium more than any church on Sunday morning as Senior Pastor Brian Tome and Pastor Alli Patterson sported football jerseys as they took the stage for the ***“pregame”*** coin flip.

After Tome wins the flip, the referee asks, ***“Would you like to kick or receive the Bible?”*** ***“I will receive,”*** Tome replied.

Patterson is then seen taking a few steps back as another pastor squares up the Bible - which had a football-style book cover on it - before kicking the Bible off the stage and into the crowd.

Patterson then high-fives her colleague in celebration.

“Patterson back with the kick . . . Oh my goodness!” the announcer is heard saying over the PA. ***“For the first time in 18 years, there’s a touchback for the kickoff.”***

In another sequence, the Bible is kicked yet again - this time a shorter distance - as the rest of the *“players”* on stage jump on top of the book as they tackle one another.

“We’re gonna get some emails; here we go,” the announcer remarks.

In an introduction to the video, Andy Reider, community pastor for Crossroads Anywhere, the church’s mobile app, offers a greeting - and a disclaimer - warning viewers the church service has *“little to nothing to do with actual football or the Super Bowl.”*

- <https://bit.ly/4aqInTe>

It may not have anything to do with football, but it looks like that is the focus, but I can tell you for certain that this has nothing to do with a church service, nothing at all!

The church is to be the pillar and foundation of the truth and what we see here is that God’s Word is kicked off the stage, which says a lot to me about what they are teaching.

That is entertainment and it is not what Paul is saying here in II Timothy chapter 4. Well, he does speak about what they are doing, tickling people’s ears, as well as what Timothy was to do, and we will see that in our study this morning.

But what disrespect for God and His Word! And that is where many churches are headed, into apostasy where Jesus is outside the church knocking to get in! (Revelation 3:14-22)

Let me share with you a few verses to show you what we are to do with the Word of God. We are to cherish it because it is God’s love letter to us.

First, in Psalm 1:2 we are told, **“But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.”**

The Psalmist is speaking of meditating upon God’s Word throughout the day and the night. To treasure it and let the Lord speak to him as he is meditating upon it.

In Psalm 119:47-48 we are told, **“And I will delight myself in Your commandments, Which I love. My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, Which I love, And I will meditate on Your statutes.”**

Notice the love that the Psalmist has for the Word of God. Do we love God’s Word like that? If we do, we will be meditating upon it or thinking about what we have read throughout the day!

In Psalm 119:14-16 we are told, **“I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.”**

If that is how we feel about God’s Word, then we will not need to be entertained when we come to church. We will have a hunger to know God and His Word more and more. We will delight in what God is showing us!

And in Joshua 1:8-9 we are told, **“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”**

Make no mistake about it, God’s Word is ***PROFITABLE*** to us! It shows us . . .

WHAT IS RIGHT!

WHAT IS WRONG!

HOW TO GET RIGHT WHEN WE HAVE GONE ASTRAY!

HOW TO STAY RIGHT!

And because of that, we will see what Paul will charge Timothy with, what he is to do knowing that the Bible comes from the very breath of God!

One writer summed it up for us like this. He wrote,

The Scripture is thus absolutely incomparable; no other book, library, or anything else in the world is able to make a lost sinner wise for salvation; no other scripture, since it lacks inspiration of God, whatever profit it may otherwise afford, is profitable for these ends: teaching us the true saving facts – refuting the lies and the delusions that deny these facts – restoring the sinner or fallen Christian to an upright position – educating, training, disciplining one in genuine righteousness.

- Lenski

I have called our study this morning – ***PREACH THE WORD!***

And I have broken down the verses we will be looking at as follows,

WHY THE CHARGE – II TIMOTHY 4:1

WHAT IS THE CHARGE – II TIMOTHY 4:2

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHARGE – II TIMOTHY 4:3-4

DO THE CHARGE – II TIMOTHY 4:5

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in II Timothy chapter 4, beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at this topic –

PREACH THE WORD!

II TIMOTHY 4**VERSE 1**

Most of your Bibles probably have this verse opening up like this, “**I charge you**” but that is not really correct. The “***you***” is not there and thus, it should read “**I charge.**”

What’s my point?

Let me share with you what this word “**charge**” is all about and then I will show you what Paul is saying here.

This word that Paul uses for “**charge**” is a very strong word.

In the Greek it is the word ***DIAMARTUROMAI***, (dee-am-ar-too’-rom-ahee), and it carries with it the idea of giving a solemn testimony.

Stott explains it like this, “*The verb diamartyomai has legal connections and can mean ‘testify under oath’ in a court of law, or to ‘adjure’ a witness to do so.*”

Thus, what Paul is doing here is he is placing himself under oath in a court of law and he is telling Timothy that what he is going to tell him was a truthful statement that affects not only Timothy, not only pastors, but really all of us.

And that truth is that one day we will stand before our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and give an account of the life that we have lived!

What is this judgment that Paul is speaking of?

I thought we were saved by grace and not by good works.

So what is this all about?

We need to remember that as Christians this judgment is not for punishment as it is with the unsaved who will be judged at the Great White Throne judgment and then cast into the Lake of Fire.

They are sent to the Lake of Fire for their rejection of Jesus and their works or the things that they have done in their life will determine the degree of punishment in the Lake of Fire they will receive for eternity!

But again, that is not what Paul is talking about, judgment for punishment.

This is for rewards in the Kingdom Age for faithful service now!

Paul said in II Corinthians 5:9-10, **“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”**

This judgment seat or Bema Seat was the place where athletes would receive their laurel wreath for winning in a certain event.

We see this also in I Corinthians 3:12-15 as Paul tells us, **“Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”**

You see, the rewards are not for how big your ministry was but how faithful you were in the ministry, what was your motivation in the ministry.

You won't lose your salvation for not being faithful in ministry, but you will lose your rewards and miss out on the blessings now!

And let me share one more thing because this is something that many Christians don't even care about anymore!

That is the return of the Lord.

Paul spoke of the Lord returning and again, the idea here is the Bema Seat of Christ, and this happens when we are Raptured up to be with Him!

But think about it. Paul had been in ministry for some thirty years or so and from the beginning he was speaking of the Lord's return.

Here we are, some thirty years down the road and Paul is still speaking about the Lord coming for His Bride the Church and he is still excited!

Many Christians are not. ***"Hey, I have heard that for so many years now, that the Lord is coming back, let's just move on!"***

Not Paul and may that not be us either! May we be **"looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."** Titus 2:13.

So what Paul is saying here is for Timothy, as I have said, but at this point he has not stated what this charge for Timothy is.

We have seen – ***WHY THE CHARGE!*** That one day we will stand before the Lord and give an account of the life we lived, as I have said.

But at this point Paul hasn't stated what he is charging Timothy to do, but it is so important that he brings this before the members of the court – the Father and Jesus who will judge us at His appearing!

In other words, he wants Timothy to testify before God that he is going to fulfill the request that Paul is going to give to him in verse 2.

Remember, Paul is now on death row, he doesn't have long to live, and he wants Timothy to continue on in the work. What we see here is a strong appeal for him to continue on in the cause for Christ.

Now, let's see what Paul is admonishing or charging Timothy to do because it is related to the false teachers with their false teaching, it is related to being judged by God for not doing it.

And thus – ***WHAT IS THE CHARGE!***

Listen to what he wrote.

VERSE 2

Remember that the weight of verse 1 rests upon this statement, this is what Paul is calling Timothy to do, charging him to do, to make a testimony before God that he will - ***PREACH THE WORD!***

Why is that important?

Because the Word of God is inspired or breathed from the mouth of God and is profitable to the hearer and thus, it must be preached!

Again, I realize that there are those that say we put too much emphasize on the Word of God, doing Bible studies. If you feel that way, listen closely.

In this letter alone, in II Timothy we see some 36 references to the true Gospel and with that there are some 17 references to false teachings.

In other words, we see Paul focus on the Word of God and he is consistent in doing that!

He wants Timothy and the Holy Spirit wants us to understand the importance of the Word of God.

Let me show you a few verses here in II Timothy where Paul talks about the Word of God. We are told,

- ***Do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord.*** (2 Timothy 1:8)
- ***Hold fast the pattern of sound words.*** (2 Timothy 1:13)
- ***The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men.*** (2 Timothy 2:2)
- ***Rightly dividing the word of truth.*** (2 Timothy 2:15)
- ***A servant of the Lord must be . . . able to teach.*** (2 Timothy 2:24)
- ***All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.*** (2 Timothy 3:16)
- ***Preach the Word.*** (II Timothy 4:2)

I like the way that Greek scholar Kenneth Wuest summed this up for us regarding the work we are to be doing. He wrote, ***“The preacher must present, not book reviews, not politics, not economics, not current topics of the day, not a philosophy of life denying the Bible and based upon unproven theories of science, but the Word. The preacher as a herald cannot choose his message. He is given a message to proclaim by his Sovereign. If he will not proclaim that, let him step down from his exalted position.”***

Here’s the thing, and it really doesn’t matter if people like it or not. When God’s Word is being taught you do not tailor it to fit the views and values of the world or the culture or so that you don’t offend someone by what God’s Word has to say.

It doesn’t matter if you are giving a message at a church or at a secular meeting, you don’t water it down, but you boldly proclaim the Word of God!

The word “**preach**” carries with it the idea of a herald or imperial messenger who would go through the streets to proclaim a message from the King or leader publicly.

Can you imagine what would happen to the King’s herald who altered the message of the King because he didn’t want to offend anyone! He would be done with.

No, the herald for the King proclaimed the message as the King wrote it, he did not adapt it to the liking of the audience, which we see with much preaching today!

When the herald did this, proclaimed the message accurately he was showing that he was not a man pleaser but a servant of the King and what the King sent him to do, he did so faithfully!

Let’s look at that for a minute. Almighty God, the creator of heaven and earth has given to us a commission to proclaim, not only the Gospel message but the truths of God found in the Word of God, not avoiding Scripture because it makes people uncomfortable or mad.

When we don’t do it faithfully, then we are more interested in being a man pleaser than a God pleaser and we are accountable to God for that!

We must deliver the message that was entrusted to us faithfully and truthfully regardless of how it is going to be received by those who are listening to it!

Paul tells Timothy that the faithful preacher must “**Be ready**” and the idea here is that he needs to understand the battle that he is in, and he needs to be aware of the traps that are out there to keep him from fulfilling the work that God has called him to do.

What traps?

We see that here in II Timothy 4:2. The problem is, what if people don’t want to hear the Word of God being taught?

What if the Word of God is not popular?

What did Paul charge Timothy to do – **“Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season.”**

The Greek words that we have translated **“in season”** and **“out of season”** speaks of opportune times and inopportune times!

In other words, you preach the Word of God no matter what because it is what they need, not always what they want!

I heard one pastor say that this verse means that the pastor needs to preach the Word when he feels like it and when he doesn't.

Let me say this, that is wrong.

If you are not ready to preach the Word, then don't! Get off the pulpit until you are ready.

But that is not what Paul is speaking of. You see, the pastor is always to be teaching the Word of God, bringing the Word of God to the people.

Again, if you don't feel like it, then get out of the ministry because you will only hurt those that God has entrusted to you!

There was once a Church of England clergyman who was gloriously saved. When Jesus changed his life, he started preaching the gospel to his whole parish and they all got saved.

Then he started preaching in neighboring parishes, and the clergymen of those parishes were offended. They asked the bishop to make the man stop.

When the bishop confronted him, he said, ***“I hear you are always preaching, and you don't seem to be doing anything else.”***

The changed man answered, ***“Well bishop, I only preach during two seasons of the year.”***

The bishop said, ***“I'm glad to know that; what seasons are they?”***

He replied, *“In season and out of season!”*

Amen to that!

I think we are living in the days that Hosea spoke of.

Notice what the Lord said through the prophet Hosea in Hosea 4:6, **“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”**

And in Isaiah 5:13 we are told, **“Therefore my people have gone into captivity, Because they have no knowledge; Their honorable men are famished, And their multitude dried up with thirst.”**

Do you realize that less than 3% of evangelical churches across America have a midweek Bible study!

God told Israel that His people were destroyed because they not only lacked the knowledge of God but the leaders, the priests rejected it, they did not teach it to the people.

That is exactly what we see happening today and look at the number of Christians that are in bondage to sin because of it!

Make no mistake about it. The Word of God is to be taught, the whole council of God, from Genesis through Revelation, when you see fruit and when you don't see fruit, when people want to hear it and when they don't want to hear it, when it is popular and when it is not popular!

Remember when Paul was speaking to the Ephesian elders at Miletus on his way to Jerusalem. He exhorted them by telling them in Acts 20:26-28, **“Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”**

In other words, don't starve the people, don't hurt the people that God has entrusted to you, the ones He purchased with His own blood by not preaching to them, teaching them the Word of God!

I wish more pastors would listen to Paul's charge to Timothy and then act upon it in their own congregations and - ***PREACH THE WORD!***

And the reality is, it is a charge to every pastor because God is going to judge us in what we did!

And, as the Word of God is taught it will comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable, and that is a good thing, that is what it is supposed to do!

Paul tells Timothy that as God's Word is taught it will ***convince*** those who are in error to turn to Jesus, to correct their ways. It speaks of correcting misbehavior or false doctrine.

Also, as the Word of God is being taught it will ***rebuke*** those living in sin.

And as the Word of God is being taught, it will ***exhort*** and encourage believers in whatever they are going through!

And a pastor is to be ***longsuffering***, or he is to be patient.

When you preach the Word of God allow the Spirit of God to work in their lives, don't be impatient!

And Paul concludes by speaking about *teaching*.

Now you can agree with me or not, that is up to you. But I personally do not believe that it is possible to give careful instruction to people if a pastor is not teaching verse by verse through the Bible.

Their teaching ends up being superficial, and many times it is jokes, stories, or he takes them where he wants them to go.

I am not saying that you can never do a topical study. But the primary diet that is given to the people should be verse by verse through the Bible!

When you teach verse by verse you have to go where God is going because it is all laid out for us by the Holy Spirit! People need healthy doctrine; they need the Word of God!

Thus, as God's Word is spoken it will minister to the hearts and lives of the people who hear it and act upon it as Isaiah 55:11 tells us, **“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”**

So – *WHAT IS THE CHARGE!*

To - *PREACH THE WORD OF GOD!*

As we read on, we will see Paul warn Timothy of a day when people will not want to hear the Word of God. That is why he told Timothy to feed them this healthy diet.

Why?

So they won't get swept away by false doctrine. Give them what they need, not what they want!

And thus – *THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHARGE!*

VERSES 3-4

Make no mistake about it, Paul is telling Timothy that he needed to stay focused on the Word of God. We can't let people drive us to do things that God does not want us to do!

But why is this such a problem?

Because man does not want to hear God's Word, they don't want to hear what God desires of them.

Then what do they want to hear?

They want to hear things that will tickle their ears, make them feel good. They don't want conviction they want entertainment, as we saw as we opened up this morning!

Notice again what Paul says here in II Timothy 4:3, "**For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine . . .**"

That word "**endure**" speaks of "*holding up or holding onto, especially in the face of difficulty.*"

Interestingly enough it can also mean, "*tolerate.*"

I believe we are living in this day that Paul was speaking about. We see people not holding onto sound or healthy doctrine. They no longer want to tolerate what the Word of God has said, and they come up with their own ideas of what to believe and this is rampant in the church today.

People are not looking for sound doctrine or healthy doctrine, but they are looking for things that will tickle their ears, make them feel good, say what they want to hear.

Clarke put it like this in regard to **“itching ears.”**

He wrote, *“Endless curiosity, an insatiable desire of variety; and they get their ears tickled with the language and accent of the person, abandoning the good and faithful preacher for the fine speaker.”*

We see this in the Seeker Friendly churches where there are certain words you can't use as you teach because they will offend people, like the word *“sin.”*

As negative as that word is and should be, if you don't tell people that they are sinners separated from God, then why in the world would they need a Savior, why would they need Jesus?

They would not!

And tragically, we see these feel-good gospels being proclaimed and people's ears may be tickled, but their lives are not transformed.

And please understand that teachers are ready and willing to spread these lies, they are just waiting for people to seek them out, and they are!

It is as Bible scholar Marvin R. Vincent wrote, *“If people desire a calf worship, a ministerial calf-maker is readily found.”*

I find it interesting that these false teachers are not out looking for the people, the people are out looking for them. They know what they teach and thus, they search for them and put their eternal destiny into their hands!

This is not a new thing. The Lord spoke of the Southern Kingdom of Judah and what they went after.

The Lord put it this way in Jeremiah 5:30-31, **“An astonishing and horrible thing Has been committed in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?”**

When you turn from the truth, you still believe in something, and Paul says that these people who turn from the truths of God’s Word believe in fairy tales.

Do you doubt that?

I hope not because it is true.

Let me give you two examples to show you what I mean.

First a religious fairy tale and then a non-religious fairy tale.

In regard to being religious, not a Christian, believing in a lie instead of the truth of God’s Word, you tell me if this is a fairy tale or not.

“Our destiny, when we die, is to make it through a series of heavens and after-life’s, until one day we become god over our own planet, like Elohim is god over earth, living on a planet named Kolob. When we are gods over our own planets, we spend the rest of eternity having celestial relations with a harem of goddess wives, producing spirit babies to populate the earth we are god over.”

Do you know who said that?

It was Joseph Smith and the Mormons; they turned aside to ***FABLES!***

In regard to non-religious beliefs, you tell me if this is a fairy tale or not.

This is from the Los Angeles Times, and we are told,

In the beginning, there was light – but also quarks and electrons. The Big Bang spewed out energy that condensed into radiation and particles. The quarks joined into protons and careened wildly about in a hot, dense, glowing goop as opaque as a star.

Time (300,000 years or so) passed. Space expanded. Matter cooled. The electrons and protons, electrically irresistible to each other, merged into neutral hydrogen, and from this marriage, the first atoms were born. Space between atoms became as transparent as crystal – pretty much the way it looks today.

The rest, as they say, is history. Atoms merged to form dust clouds, which grew into stars and galaxies and clusters. Stars used up their nuclear fuel, collapsed and exploded in recurring cycles, fusing elements in the process.

Occasionally, a stable planet condensed around a second-generation star, where carbon-based life forms grew into, among other things, cosmologists, the better to contemplate it all.

- Los Angeles Times, The Big Bang and What Followed It

Talk about faith! Those who believe something can come from nothing by random chance happenings have turned aside to **FABLES!**

But what about in the church today?

Tragically, we have moved away from foundational doctrines and thus, what we believe are a bunch of lies, fairy tales. And, in the end, they will not save us but send us to everlasting darkness. We see this big push in the Emergent Church, and it is dangerous!

What are these doctrines that they no longer believe even though the Word of God clearly teaches them?

They deny that Jesus is God, that He has atoned for our sins by His sacrifice on the cross of Calvary, His virgin birth, that we are born in sin, the Trinity, that the Bible is the Word of God, and-so-on. You get the idea.

And tragically there are scores of fables, fairy tales out there for people to pick and choose, from working your way to heaven to God only loves you when you are good to all roads lead to God and-so-on.

How do we know what is true?

The Word of God is the plume line for it tells us what is right, what is wrong, what to do when we have gone astray and how to stay in line with God's will.

The false prophets that promote these lies may make a lot of noise, but it is just a bunch of hot air, it is empty, and it won't save you, only Jesus can!

One writer summed it up like this for us. He wrote,

Many churches today are filled to overflowing with those who want their ears tickled with the myths of easy-believism and the many variations of selfism and so-called positive thinking. They come to have their egos fed and their sins approved, not to have their hearts cleansed and their souls saved. They want only to feel good, not to be made good. Tragically, such myths serve to religiously insulate people from the true gospel and drive them still further from the Lord.

- John MacArthur, 2 Timothy 4:3-4

Thus – ***THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHARGE!*** To continue on preaching the Word of God in spite of what people want to hear. Don't move away from the truths of God found in the Word of God and follow or teach fairy tales!

Make no mistake about it. People are looking for doctrine that is easy, that is comfortable, and they seek teachers who will teach them these things.

What should we do?

That is our last point – ***DO THE CHARGE!***

Listen to what Paul told Timothy in the next verse.

VERSE 5

In spite of all that, Paul tells Timothy some very important things that He is to do!

And I want you to notice the contrast here.

These false teachers with their false teaching are leading people astray.

But you, Timothy, don't go down that path, pay attention, stay awake and do what you have been called to do, **“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”**

As one writer put it, ***“The more determined men become to despise the teachings of Christ, the more zealous should godly ministers be to assert it and the more strenuous their efforts to preserve it entire.”*** (Calvin)

Amen to that!

First, we see Paul tell Timothy to be **“watchful.”**

The Greek word literally means ***“free from of intoxicants.”***

I think that does work, be alert, don't let anything cause you to be cloudy in your judgment.

But in this context the idea is being levelheaded, unwavering and steadfast!

In other words, Paul is saying that the faithful pastor is one that watches out for and stands against any new winds of doctrine that try to come blowing through the church.

And it is not if these winds of doctrine will blow through the church, they will! We have seen it, and I am sure there will be others that will blow through the church and, as Paul told Timothy, that is what I also will do, prevent these false teachings from getting in!

Listen to the example that Paul gives to us in I Thessalonians 2:3-9 regarding how he ministered to them.

He wrote, **“For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit. But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness - God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.”**

Paul was not a man pleaser, but a God pleaser and thus, he spoke forth the Word of God.

He did not use flattering words or entertain them. He preached the Word of God to them!

Not only that but he was to “**endure hardship**” and let’s face it, if you are going to serve the Lord you will encounter hardship, not might.

As Timothy fulfilled his ministry, he was going to face persecution, difficult times and so will we.

That can’t stop us from bringing the Word of God to people.

It didn’t stop Paul. Paul tells us of the difficulty he faced in ministry.

He wrote to the Corinthian church, “**Are they ministers of Christ? - I speak as a fool - I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness - besides the other things . . .**” I Corinthians 11:23-28a.

Can you imagine “**other things**” he went through as well! He didn’t even list everything that he had to endure, all the persecution he faced in the ministry the Lord had him in!

In hearing all that, do you know what was the concern for Paul?

What was on Paul’s mind?

We don’t have to guess because he finishes up writing in I Corinthians 11:28, “**. . . what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.**”

That was what Paul was trying to instill in the life of Timothy. It is not going to be easy, but don’t lose your focus!

And Paul tells Timothy to “**do the work of an evangelist**” and I want you to understand that this is a command by Paul, this is not a suggestion!

What is the point?

Paul is telling Timothy that he needs to continue to proclaim the Gospel message, the Gospel of salvation, but that was not all of the ministry that Timothy was involved in as we have seen. He was to preach the Word as well.

As I have said in our study of I Timothy and II Timothy I think Timothy was not as bold as Paul and he needed those words of encouragement to spur him on.

He was probably a timid man, maybe a little fearful and Paul is encouraging him to continue on in the work. Really commanding him to continue on, not to give up!

And notice that Paul said to Timothy that he was to, “**fulfill your ministry.**”

Again, don't give up but fulfill the work or complete the work that God had given him to do!

I find that interesting. He didn't say God will judge you by how big your ministry is but by how faithful you were in fulfilling it!

A good example of faithfulness in service, fulfilling his ministry, is seen in the life of the prophet Jeremiah.

For over forty years he spoke forth the Words of God to the Southern Kingdom of Judah and not one person heeded his warning, no one listened to him!

In the eyes of many he would be considered a failure but in God's eyes he was not because he was faithful in what he was called to do.

May we be faithful in what God has called us to do!

I think Paul wanted his son in the faith, Timothy, to be able to say as he would say, and we will see this next time, **“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”** II Timothy 4:6-8.

Notice what we saw this morning.

WHY THE CHARGE!

Because one day we will stand before the Lord at the Bema Seat of Christ and give an account of the work we have done, the ministry that God has given to us. Not for salvation but for rewards!

WHAT IS THE CHARGE!

The charge is simple – ***PREACH THE WORD!*** Give people the Word of God and not the worlds ideas or philosophies!

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHARGE!

We are living in the day that Paul spoke of where people don't want to hear the truths of God found in the Word of God and thus, they look for teachers who will tell them fairy tales and make them comfortable in their sin. Don't compromise your faith, do what you were called to do! Which brings us to the last point.

DO THE CHARGE!

God has called us to a work, may we be obedient and fulfill the ministry that He has given to us!

May we fight the good fight of faith and – ***PREACH THE WORD!***