

II Timothy - Part 2: Proclaim the Gospel

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I. Introduction.

- A. Paul is writing within weeks or days of his martyrdom.
- B. He claims to have finished well and says he will receive the crown of life.
- C. There is a solemn charge here with Paul's death imminent.

II. The nature of the charge.

A. "Preach the word."

- 1. It is equivalent to the truth and the faith.
- 2. It consists of the Old Testament Scriptures.
- 3. It consists of the Apostolic teaching.

B. Our duty is not only suffering for it, obedience to it, or guarding it—our duty is bold proclamation.

C. It must be preached earnestly.

D. It must be urgent.

- 1. Inconvenience should not be upon the listener.
- 2. Inconvenience should be upon the speaker—there should not be rudeness.

E. It must be relevant. The word can be applied in different ways to different needs. The preacher is to use argument, reproof and appeal.

F. It is to be patient—forced and contrived decisions are never to occur.

G. It is to be intelligent. The Word is to be preached with all teaching. Too much of a distinction should not be made.

III. The basis of the charge—three motivations.

A. Look at Jesus Christ.

- 1. He is to judge the living and the dead.

2. Paul still believes that Jesus is returning even though he will soon pass away.
3. He describes Christians as those who love His appearing.

B. Look at the contemporary scene.

1. The time is coming when people will reject the truth.
2. The times coming are already present; it was not just that bad times were going to come, but that Timothy was to preach the Word even when the bad times come.
3. Men cannot bear the truth and sound teaching. They wander into myths.
4. They have a strange pathological condition called itching ears—it is full of curiosity looking for some spicy new teaching.
5. Timothy was to be different—the people around him were unstable, but he was to be stable. Hard times are not to discourage us or induce us. They are to spur us on to preach the more.

C. Look at Paul who is approaching martyrdom.

1. Even Paul's death is only a reversal of victory by Jesus Christ, but his work is at its end.
2. He passes on the torch to Timothy. The old generation cannot do the work forever.

IV. A personal illustration of the charge from Paul himself.

A. Paul preached the Word all the way to Imperial Rome.

B. Yet Paul was an ordinary human being who suffered from human plight.

1. He suffered from loneliness since a number of his companions deserted him.
2. Human friendship is the provision of God for men—wonderful as the presence of Jesus is today, they are no substitute for friends.
3. He was cold and was bored.
4. These basic needs are not unspiritual but human. We should not despise basic human needs.
5. Of all the Christians of Rome there was no one found to support him. This was Paul's Gethsemane.

C. Christ gave Paul inward strength to preach the gospel. In the midst of his greatest needs he still had a Christ-centered concern. He was concerned with preaching the cause of Christ over his own.

V. Conclusion.

A. Underlying the whole epistle is the conviction that God has spoken and has deposited this message with the church.

B. Now the Apostle who devoted himself to this message is on his deathbed hoping Timothy will carry on where he left off.

C. Knowing the challenges ahead, Paul issues the charge to Timothy to guard, suffer for, continue in and preach the gospel.

D. Paul's final exhortation is to receive grace from Christ and to give glory to Him. In all our Christian life and service we have no other philosophy than this.

Application questions

1. In what way ought the Word be preached? How has the modern church failed in this regard?

2. Paul lists three motivations for proclaiming the gospel. Which stands out to you? Why?

3. In light of Paul's death the charge to preach is both solemn and powerful. How are you engaging the church and the lost by teaching and preaching about Jesus Christ? What might you do to further partake in this God-given responsibility?
