**Endure…. till the end**

**2 Timothy 4:1-22**

**2 TIMOTHY 4:1-22**

* Read the passage silently on your own.
* Read the passage twice out loud.



**OBSERVATION** – Ask the question - What do you see or what does the passage say? (Don’t read into it.) What do you see in the passage that stands out to you? Look for key words, phrases, comparisons, contrasts. You are seeking to answer the questions – Who? What? Where? When? How? and Why?



**Time Out!** What are some things you observe from this passage which stand out to you?

**Time Out!** As you read Paul’s final words to Timothy, you see his passion for what is important in life. As you think about your life what are you passionate about which could be handed down from generation to generation?

*In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:*

**THE CHARGE! Vs. 2-4**

* **Preach the Word**. Let’s be careful we don’t teach and preach what is trendy or of our own opinion, but let’s preach the Word! The prophet Ezekiel tells us, it is the Word of God that transform the heart from a heart of stone, to a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 11:14-21)
* **Be ready in season and out of season**. What does this mean? It means we preach and teach when it’s convenient or inconvenient. When people are receptive or not. Whether there’s little fruit or much fruit. Whether people have willing hearts or hard hearts. Whether its popular or not popular. . . never stop preaching the Word.
* **“Convince** (persuade**), rebuke, (**showing when wrong**) exhort** (encourage**), with complete patience and teaching.”** There are times when we preach that it is very convicting to the soul. Times when we are trying to convince or persuade others with the truth. Times when we need to rebuke, helping others to see their error. And then times we exhort or encourage. But let’s remember it is God’s Word that does the changing of the heart not us. Let the word speak for itself. Be patient with those you share with, giving careful instruction to them. Don’t give up!



**Time Out!** What attitude should we have when we reprove or rebuke someone?

Every teacher knows that patience is one of the most important character qualities of a good teacher. When I taught my son to swim, ride a bike, and read, it took great patience and instruction. Mistakes were made. Progress was always slower than hoped. Attitudes were not perfect. These things trained me in patience as much as it trained him in the skills.

* **People will develop an appetite for half-truths.**



**Time Out!** How have you seen in our culture where people are no longer interested in the truth but only what makes them feel good?

Our culture will listen to what pleases and teases - what tickles rather than what teaches. And many pastors will cater to their demand. They’ll water down the Word, to suit their desires. They will turn their ears to fables or myths (lies) not truth. One of the scariest passages is Jeremiah 5:31, “The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so.”

People are going to listen to those who give them what they want to hear. Someone has said when a pastor does not rightly divide the word of God it’s like eating fish. There’s some meat there, but there’s also some bones you can choke on. Let’s make sure we know the Word of God well enough that we can detect false teaching when it rears its ugly head. We learn to see what is counterfeit these days by putting it up against what is true and authentic.

**THE CHALLENGE FOR TIMOTHY AND US – vs. 5**

2 Timothy 4:5 “As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

**Challenge #1 Be sober-minded.**

The phrase sober-minded means to be focused, clear-headed, or alert.

**Sober thoughts flow over into sober actions.**

**Think right, do right, feel right. Think wrong, do wrong, feel lousy.**

**When the heart is right, the actions follow,**

**and when the heart isn’t right, the actions follow.**

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**Helpful Notes:**

When on an airplane, the “flight attendant” will give these instructions. “In the event of loss of cabin pressure an air mask will automatically drop from above you.” They explain if you are traveling with a child to make sure you first put on your mask that has oxygen flowing through it before trying to help your child. Why? Because you can’t help your child, if you’re passed out from lack of oxygen. Paul is telling Timothy and us if we are going to make an impact with the life-giving message of Jesus, we must be spiritually healthy ourselves before we can impact others. As we walk with Jesus and remain sober-minded, we will empower and impact those around us.

**Challenge #2 Endure suffering or hardship.**

Some translations say perseverance. It means to bear or hold up under the weight of something. To stick with a task without quitting or giving up. To remain faithful to your calling when you feel the weight of ministry, problems, suffering, misunderstanding being heaped on your life.

Consider that five years from now our life and others lives in our ministry will be different because we choose to endure or persevere. Let’s not quit or give up on the calling God has placed on our lives. Every time we endure hardship God uses that to build our character and confidence in Him in order that His church will grow.

**A strong church ministry will have some incredible stories**

**of how God has taken them through the storm.**



**Time Out!** Share a time in ministry that you were growing weary and thought about quitting. What made you stay and remain faithful?

**Challenge #3 – Do the work of an evangelist.**

If we are going to make an eternal impact not just for today but for a lifetime, then let’s set our focus on doing the most important thing in ministry – sharing the gospel. We can easily get sidetracked with all the demands of ministry that we fail in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ on a consistent basis.

Sharing the gospel and equipping our people to go deeper in their relationship with Christ are the two most important principles in building Christ’s church.

**Challenge #4 – Fulfill your ministry.**

Do what God has called and commissioned you to do. The fear of man and circumstances, unbelief, the cares of the world, besetting sins, discouragement and many more vices, seek to rob us from having a successful ministry for the Lord. Our influence to grow others in Christ will make an impact larger than we could ever imagine. Be faithful and endure like Paul till the very end.

**WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE VS. 6-22**

**I heard a preacher once say, “when all is said and done, you’ve got to ask yourself, was more just said, or was more done.”**

Paul, as he comes to the end of his journey on earth, describes his life as a drink offering. Like a sacred libation being poured out on a sacrificial meat offering.

These are wonderful and timely words for us in ministry. “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” Verse 7. I want to be able to get to the end of my life and say that, and I hope you do too. Paul was like a long distance runner crossing the finish line and breaking the tape. Paul fought Judaizers and Gnostics - illnesses and weariness - jealous people, pagan people, greedy people - physical assaults, and personal attacks, and vicious lies - close friends forsook him - churches denied him - his Christian life has been an uphill fight. But he has been faithful to the task. He has fulfilled the ministry God has given Him. Faithful to the end. We will all leave a legacy. The bigger question is, will it be a positive one or a negative one?



**Time Out!** What impresses you about Paul’s parting words in verses 9-22

One day all of us will see the eternal impact we have made when people from every tribe, nation, language gather at the throne of God. Let’s not quit, let’s be sober minded, lets endure suffering/hardship, let’s do the work of an evangelist, lets fulfill the ministry the Lord has given to us.



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