

II Timothy – Timothy’s Primary Duty II Tim. 4:1-5

Thesis: To help us better understand the purpose Timothy.

Introduction:

- A. These are some of the most important words that Paul is going to use to encourage Timothy.
 - 1. Timothy was to do one thing: “Preach the word” (4:2).
 - 2. Because there were those who were about to raise up false teachers for themselves, Timothy needed to be diligent in preaching the word.

- B. Today, we will notice the primary duty of Timothy, which is also the primary duty of today’s preachers.

I. Paul’s simple command to Timothy was this: “Preach the word” (4:1-2).

- A. It is the word of God that must be preached (4:2).
 - 1. Remember what has previously been said about “the word.”
 - a. It is the Holy Scriptures “which are able to make you wise for salvation” (3:15).
 - b. The Holy Scriptures are directly from God and are profitable to us for all things (3:16-17).
 - 2. It is that word, and only that word, that must be preached.
 - a. Acts 20:27 (Paul speaking to the elders of the church from Ephesus) - For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.
 - b. I Cor. 1:20-25 - Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? {21} For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. {22} For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; {23} but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, {24} but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. {25} Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.
 - c. I Cor. 2:1-5 - And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. {2} For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. {3} I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. {4} And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

{5} that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

- d. **I Cor. 15:1-2** - Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, {2} by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you-- unless you believed in vain.

B. There are three main things that a preacher does during the course of his lessons (4:2).

1. A preacher must “convince” his listeners of error.
 - a. The Greek word that Paul uses is one that means to reproof and “admonish” (Strong’s).
 - b. It is a strong warning against sin and conveys the idea of telling a brother of their fault.
 - c. David Lipscomb says that this is done “*for wrong teaching with the idea of bring the fault home to the offender*” (Commentary on II Timothy, pg. 239).
2. A preacher must “rebuke” his listeners.
 - a. “Rebuke” carries the same idea as “convince,” only stronger.
 - b. It is “to tax upon or forbid” (Strong’s).
 - c. It is to harshly condemn sin and those who participate in it.
3. A preacher must also “exhort” his listeners.
 - a. To “exhort” is to encourage.
 - b. A preacher must be ever mindful of his listeners and their need to be encouraged to do what is right.
 - c. Even though sin must be confronted and condemned, the listener must also be encouraged.
4. All of this is to be done “with all longsuffering and teaching.”
 - a. Preaching requires patience and endurance.
 - b. The truth, the word of God, must continually be taught.

C. This charge was given to Timothy “before God and the Lord Jesus Christ” (4:1).

1. It is Jesus who is going to be the judge.
 - a. At some point, we are all going to stand before Him and be judged by Him.
 - b. Timothy needed to remember that this was a command from God, and not one that he could avoid.
2. Far too many times, the preacher is more concerned about what the members want to hear rather than what they need to hear.
3. There will be some topics that members do not want to hear about.
4. Preachers are commanded to preach only one thing: the word of God.
5. When this is not being done, it is time to get out of preaching.

II. Timothy needed to “preach the word” because the time was coming in which “they will not endure sound doctrine” (4:3-4).

A. Paul warns Timothy of a time in which the members of the church will no longer endure sound doctrine (4:3-4).

1. They will not want to hear the truth, but will rather turn to false teachings.
2. In fact, they were going to raise these teachers for themselves.
3. They were to the point that they did not care about the truth; they only wanted to serve themselves.

B. The Bible is full of warnings about false teachers.

1. Paul had previously told Timothy that false teachers were coming.
 - a. **I Tim. 4:1-3** - Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, {2} speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, {3} 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.
 - b. **II Tim. 2:16-18** - But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. {17} And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, {18} who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.
2. **II Pet. 2:1-2** - But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. {2} And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.
3. Because this world is full of false teachers today, we must continue to “preach the word.”

III. In this time of unfaithful listeners, Paul tells Timothy to do several things (4:5).

A. "Be watchful in all things."

1. Timothy needed to be aware when these people were in the church.
2. Because of the eternal destruction that was brought on by their doctrine, Timothy needed to watch out for it.
3. Paul has warned Timothy that "perilous times" are coming, and he needed to be ready for them (3:1-9).

B. "Endure afflictions."

1. These same ones who would listen to this false doctrine would also persecute Timothy because of his stand for the truth.
2. II Tim. 3:12 - Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
3. If Timothy was going to be a faithful worker for God, he needed to endure these persecutions.

C. "Do the work of an evangelist."

1. An evangelist is one who is "a preacher of the gospel" (Strong's).
2. Timothy could not concern himself with the cares of this world as he worked as an evangelist.
3. II Tim. 2:4 - No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.
4. Timothy was to teach others of the gospel of Christ, and he could not afford to get caught up in the cares of this life.

D. "Fulfill your ministry."

1. Timothy had a job to do.
2. Paul is encouraging Timothy to finish this task, just as Paul had accomplished his task.
3. II Tim. 4:7 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Conclusion: