

# 2 Timothy 4:4-5

## *Full Proof of Thy Ministry*

### 1. 4:4 – Turned unto Fables

- a. *“turn away”* – Before error entraps, you must turn away from truth - Eph 4:14-15
  - i. *“their ears”* – They choose to stop listening to the truth – Rom 10:17, Zech 7:9-12
- b. Fable ~*def.* An imagined story to instruct or amuse, a fiction to enforce a useful truth
  - i. The stories we tell ourselves, the narratives that we invent that are not true.
  - ii. Fables are told about our past, our present (identity), our future.
- c. When your belief is defined by stories/fictions/legends rather than Bible truth
  - i. Santa Claus (easy), nativity (harder), Chosen, Chariots of Fire, CS Lewis
  - ii. Luke the painter, John’s 4 heads, Michael’s feather, Mary returns, 3 Nephites
  - iii. Fables about Bible – Bible code, higher critic, missionary Paul, post-Acts, preterist
  - iv. “Jesus taught parables” 1) not Paul, 2) they were intended to hide –Mt 13:11-13
  - v. Peter not following ‘cunningly devised fables... but we saw/heard’ –2Pet 1:16
  - vi. What was Paul talking about? Jewish fables had already begun - 1 Tim 1:4, 4:7
  - vii. Talmud, Enoch, Matt 28:13, Col 2:18-22, 2Cor 11:3-4, Gal 4:10, 2Th 2:2, 1Ti 6:20
  - viii. The danger of fables - they turn from the truth – Titus 1:14
  - ix. It takes more effort to allegorize the gospel, than preach it outright.
- d. The time has come when it’s more popular to tell/defend the fable than preach the truth

### 2. 4:5 – Proof of Thy Ministry

- a. The last words of ministerial instruction. A summary of 2 Timothy exhortations.
- b. *“watch”* – Give attention, be not ashamed, hold fast, strong in grace, study, be instant
  - i. Who, what, when, where, why you are preaching. You must know.
- c. *“endure afflictions”* – partake, endure hardness, live godly in Christ Jesus, continue thou
- d. *“do the work of an evangelist”* - There is something faithful workmen need to do
  - i. Preach! Faithful to proclaim the word, even when no one else does – v2-4
  - ii. ch1 ‘remember the words’ ch2 ‘rightly divided word’ ch3 ‘empty/inspired words’
- e. *“make full proof of thy ministry”* – similar to what he says to Archippus - Col 4:17.
  - i. The work of the ministry of the Lord is now described in 2 Tim 4:1-4
  - ii. God has given to us to have, to know, to stand, and to preach the word faithfully.
    - 1. He does not promise ‘nickels, numbers, notoriety’ or hand holding
    - 2. He does not promise ease, no problems, no afflictions, peace on earth
  - iii. Men ‘turning from the truth’ is why you exist as a minister, steward – 1 Cor 4:2
  - iv. God is faithful; men are not. Ministry needed for unfaithful men/saints
- f. Successfully proving your ministry only requires you and the word of God rightly divided.