

**Running the Race of Faith  
2 Timothy 4:1-5 (Week 10) 06/28/2026  
Preach the Word!**

This is my message written prior to being preached. Please excuse the bullet point format and any grammatical mistakes. This is meant to be spoken.

***<sup>1</sup> I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup> preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. <sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:1-5)***

### **Introduction & Review**

- Today we come to the **fourth and final chapter** of **2 Timothy**.
- Throughout the first 3 chapters Paul has focused on Timothy's responsibility to the word of God.
- He's exhorted Timothy not to **be ashamed of the word, to guard the word,**
- to **follow (or live by) the word, to risk persecution and suffering for the word,**
- to **teach the word, to work hard and rightly handle the word.**
- Paul also encouraged Timothy by reminding him that he's been taught the word from childhood,
- and that as a **young man** he was **discipled in the word by the Apostle himself.**
- And at the end of **Chapter 3,** to **emphasize** the importance of the word in **life and ministry,**
- Paul boldly states...

***<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 (Timothy 3:16-17)***

- All Scripture is inspired by God, it is the word of God, **and it is profitable for God's people.**
- Reproving, correcting and **training in righteousness.**
- **Ultimately equipping God's people for every good work.**
- And this leads right into our passage for today,
- where Paul again turns to **Timothy's responsibility to the Word, his greatest work.**
- These verses, in many ways, provide the climax of the letter.
- Besides some **personal requests,** this is **Paul's final command** to Timothy.
- This is the culmination of all of his prior **encouragement and instruction** regarding the Word.
- **Timothy, Paul says, you must PREACH THE WORD!**

- **Now**, like much of **1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy**, this passage has **special application** to Pastors like Timothy who preach the word of God as their vocation.
- But as I've said throughout **our study of these letters**.
- No matter who you are or what your JOB is,
- all believers have a **responsibility to represent** Jesus Christ in this world.
- And since Christ is the word and is **revealed by the word**,
- It seems reasonable to say that all believers, not just Pastors and Elders,
- have the responsibility, **in some way**, to preach the word.
- As Paul said to the **church in Ephesus**...

***<sup>11</sup> And he (Christ) gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, (Ephesians 4:11-12)***

- We, **the saints**, are in **ministry together**.
- Yes, shepherds (Pastors), teachers have the responsibility to equip.
- And that's what I **primarily try to do on Sunday mornings** when I **preach the word**.
- But preaching the word **is a responsibility that we all share**.
- I know that word **Preach** is almost **exclusively** applied to what **Pastors** do.
- But **in the Greek** the word literally means **to herald, to declare, to proclaim**.
- We see this in the **gospel of Mark** that records what happened after Jesus cast a **Legion of demons out of a man**.

***<sup>20</sup> And he (the man with the legion of demons) went away and began to proclaim (same word) in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled. (Mark 5:20)***

- We are all **called to preach (proclaim) what Jesus has done for us**.
- And that certainly **involves proclaiming the word of God**,
- **both in the church** which I believe is the **primary responsibility of the Pastor and Elders**.
- And to a **lost world** which is the **responsibility of every believer**.
- In fact, writing not to Pastors but to the church of Corinth Paul says...

***<sup>7</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.***

- Are you a new creation in Christ? **If so**, then what follows applies to you.

***<sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:17-19)***

- All of us have been given **the ministry and message of reconciliation**.
- That message is the gospel, **that message is the word of God**.
- And **we must declare it in the church and in the world**.

- So, **I pray that as we look at Paul's charge to Timothy.**
- That each **one of us** will be challenged to discover how this charge applies **to our lives.**
- Preaching the word of God may look different depending on our gifting and circumstances,
- **but we are all charged to Preach the Word.**
- And Paul prefaces **this charge to Timothy and us with...**

### 1. The Seriousness of Preaching the World

- You can hear **the passion** in Paul's opening words.

#### ***<sup>1</sup> I charge you***

- The charge itself (**preach the word**) will come in **the next verse.**
- What follows in verse one is meant to show **the serious nature of the coming charge.**

#### ***I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: (2 Timothy 4:1)***

- By declaring this charge to be in the presence of God and Christ Jesus.
- Paul emphasizes just **how important, how serious preaching the word is.**
- He says, God the father and God the Son, Christ Jesus are witness to this charge.
- They saw Paul write these words to Timothy. In fact, **they inspired these words.**
- And they also saw Timothy read them for the first time.
- God, Father and Son take the preaching of their word seriously.
- And this is made clear not only by **invoking their presence,**
- but by stating **three realities** about **Jesus Christ.**
- **First, Jesus' judgment.**
- It is Jesus (not God the Father)

#### ***who is to judge the living and the dead***

- As Jesus himself said...

#### ***<sup>22</sup> For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, (John 5:22)***

- And **why does Paul mention this in the preface to his charge to preach the word?**
- **Well,** apparently because Timothy (**and all believers will be judged as to whether they obey this charge or not, whether they preach the word or not**)
- Calvin put it this way...

***[Paul] makes special mention of the judgment of Christ because He will require of us, who are his representatives, a stricter account of our failures in His ministry. (John Calvin)***

- Now **this judgment** applies to **every believer** as **we are charged to proclaim the word**,
- To proclaim the message of reconciliation to world.
- But there is also, **as Calvin says**, a “**stricter account**” for our failures in His ministry.
- He’s referring to those whose ministry it is to preach the word in the church.
- **As James tells us...**

***1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. (James 3:1)***

- Similarly, the writer of Hebrews observes about leaders,

***17 ...they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. (Hebrews 13:17)***

- So, in **2 Timothy**, Paul points to

***the judgment that Jesus will bring upon those who fail to preach the word.***

- Yes, it will be stricter for Pastors and Elders.
- But it also applies to all believers who are called to represent Christ in this world.
- And what will this judgment involve.
- Well, I don’t exactly know, Paul doesn’t say.
- The point is, just knowing judgment will take place **makes preaching the word a serious matter.**
- Jesus Christ cares deeply about the preaching of His Word.
- Therefore, we will face judgment based on whether or not we took the **God given opportunities** to preach the word to God’s people **and/or to share the word (the gospel) with a lost world.**
- Let the seriousness of this truth, **encourage you to take and make opportunities to preach the word.**
- So first, we have seen **the seriousness of Jesus’ Judgment.**
- Paul also points to... **Jesus’ appearing.**

***1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus... by his appearing... (2 Timothy 4:1)***

- **Paul says, Timothy**, one day **Jesus will appear**, he will return in glorious splendor.
- In his letter to **Titus** Paul calls it...

***13 ...our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (Titus 2:13)***

- And what I think Paul is saying is that one day Timothy (and every believer) will see Jesus Christ face to face.
- What an amazing **yet serious** day that will be!
- And the question is, **when you face your Lord and savior Jesus Christ**,
- do you want to face him as one **who faithfully declared his word.**

- As one who **proclaimed that Jesus is the Christ, the prophesized Messiah,**
- That he is **the divine Son of God** who entered our world.
- That he lived a sinless life and **died a sacrificial death in our place,** so that **the sins of those who trust in him** might be forgiven, that we might have **new life in Christ,**
- **and** that we might **enter an eternal relationship with God** through HIM!
- **Or do you want to face Jesus** as one who **remained silent.**
- Never preaching the word, never declaring **the message of reconciliation to a lost world.**
- **I hope this helps you see just how serious preaching the word is to Jesus.**
- And finally, Paul speaks of ... **Jesus' kingdom.**

***<sup>1</sup> I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus... and by... his kingdom: (2 Timothy 4:1)***

- This is possibly the most serious reality of all, **that of Christ's eternal kingdom.**
- In Revelation we read...

***<sup>15</sup> Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." (Revelation 11:15)***

- When **Christ appears,** he will **judge the living and the dead,**
- And **the kingdom of the world will become the kingdom our Christ.**
- **He will reign forever and ever.**
- And those who **trust in Christ will reign with him.**
- **But implied** in that, is the fact that those who **don't trust in Christ** will not be there,
- they will experience the **reality of Christ's appearing** in a **totally different way.**
- As we read **in Matthew's gospel,** Jesus will say to them...

***<sup>41</sup> ...Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (Matthew 25:41)***

- And that's what's at stake when **we preach the word.**
- The **eternal kingdom of Christ vs eternal fire.**
- Because it is through **the preaching of God's word** that men and women enter the kingdom of God.
- So, Paul, in this preface to the charge, has emphasized the seriousness of preaching the word.
- His purpose, I believe is to **rouse** Timothy and all believers into action by pointing to not only the presence of **God the Father and Christ Jesus,**
- But also, to the great **joys and terrible consequences** of **preaching or not preaching the word.**

- So, take **this serious preface** to heart as we now turn to the charge itself...

## 2. The Charge to Preach the Word

- It comes in **verse 2**...

***<sup>2</sup> preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. (2 Timothy 4:2)***

- This charge, this command, along with the preface is meant to convey the urgent nature of **preaching God's word**.
- Timothy must waste no time. **He must get to it.**
- And the reason Timothy needs this charge, **at least in part**,
- is certainly because of **his reluctance, at times**, to preach the word.
- As we've talked about in **past studies of 1 and 2 Timothy**,
- **Timothy** was probably **an introvert** who suffered from a bit of **Timidity**,
- and so, at times he struggled to **boldly Preach the Word**.
- And yet **God called him** and empower him to do just that.
- **I find this encouraging to all of us who suffer from shyness,**
- **or fear of confronting people** with the truth of God's word.
- To Timothy and all God's people, **introvert, extrovert, God's insists that we...**

### ***preach the word***

- That's the charge Paul gives Timothy, and that's the charge God gives to all believers.
- **Pastors, Elders** preach the word to your congregation.
- **Missionaries** cross cultural and language barriers to preach the word.
- **Bible College and Seminary Professors** preach the word to your students.
- And all believers, preach the word to other believers, **make disciples**.
- Preach the word to **non-believers** proclaim **gospel message to a lost world**.
- But I can't do that you say, **I'm an introvert**, I'm too shy, I'm afraid.
- Well don't forget you've just described Timothy as well.
- And Paul says to him (and us) **though you may be shy,**
- **though you may prefer to remain in the background,**
- **you must proclaim the Word of God.**
- I can totally understand **the need for this exhortation** because **as an introvert myself,**
- As someone who **was painfully shy and insecure.**
- When God called **me into ministry (to be a Missionary)**, I was not **only shocked but terrified.**
- So much so, that I was sure that God would give me some kind of ministry **that didn't involve speaking in front of people.**

- It was hard enough **to share my faith one-on-one**,
- but the thought of **preaching** never even entered my mind.
- **However**, as I began to get more involved in the church,
- And as my **wife Christina and I went to Seminary**.
- It became clear that ministry would include **some form of preaching the word**.
- And so, with fear and trepidation I began to teach (proclaim) the word.
- I lead the youth group, I lead a neighborhood Bible study, I taught adult Sunday school.
- And by God's grace, every time I was willing to **obey his call to preach the word**.
- **He gave me the power to do so**.
- And in time **the fear and shyness and insecurity lessened**.
- And now, **at least most of the time**, I can preach the word with **boldness and joy**.
- **And I'm certainly not unique**.
- The charge to preach the word in one way or another comes to us all.
- Whether we are naturally gifted extroverts or not.
- And our response is **simply a matter of obedience**.
- Each one of us is called, **in their own way**, to **represent Christ in this world**.
- And to do that **you must open your mouth**, you must, if not preach (certainly communicate) the word of God.
- Because we are all called to **share our faith and to make disciples**.
- And whether we do that **one-on-one or in a group setting**,
- Whether we do it **in the church or in the world**.
- Preaching (communicating) God's word **must be** at the **heart of our ministry**.
- So first comes the understanding that as believers, no matter what kind of personality we have,
- We are charged to preach, proclaim, share, communicate, **whatever word you want to use for your circumstances**.
- We are **all representatives of Jesus Christ**,
- and therefore, we are all responsible for proclaiming **HIS WORD**.
- And that is crucial to understand as well.
- When it comes **to preaching the word**.
- It is the **Word that is to be preached!**
- This is especially important for Pastors but there is application for us all.
- As the imminent theologian and scholar **Tom Oden** says about this charge:

***There is no hint here that preaching is thought of primarily as self-expression of subjective experience or feeling-disclosure or autobiography or "telling one's story" so as to neglect Scripture. . . . The whole counsel of God is to be preached, without fanciful, idiosyncratic amendment or individualistic addition. (Tom Oden)***

- Now of course there's a place for personal testimony when we communicate the word of God.
- To a non-believer we might share our testimony as an illustration of what the word of God says about Jesus Christ saving and transforming a person.
- To a believer you might share how God empowered you to overcome/escape from some temptation in your life.
- **Testifying (giving evidence) to the word that says...**

***13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)***

- So personal testimony to illustrate the truth of God's word is good!
- But when **you (or I) preach our personal experiences that don't illustrate or help people understand God's word.**
- **If they're just an opportunity to tell a story, to entertain, or talk about yourself.**
- Then it's **not preaching the word**, and it is not helpful.
- But even worse, there are those who use their personal experience as if it were the word of God.
- **For example**, teaching that when they gave 20% of their income, they soon received 30% back.
- **Therefore**, if you give 20% of your income (to them) you will soon receive 30% back.
- This is certainly not Biblical; it's not preaching the word.
- So, don't preach yourself, don't preach your personal experience **unless it is helpful for understanding the truths of God's word.**
- Instead, be like the Apostle Paul who wrote...

***5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. (2 Corinthians 4:5)***

- The focus of our preaching, teaching, communicating the gospel, making disciples must be Jesus Christ **as he is revealed in the word of God.**
- And again, **like Paul we must not**

***7 ...shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27)***

- Two days before his death Presbyterian preacher **Clarence Edward Macartney**, was visited by his brother **Robertson** who was on his way to preach at a nearby church.
- As Robertson left, he heard his famous brother say: "**Put all the Bible you can into it.**"
- **And that is a good word for us all.**
- When we are engaged in ministry to others, **Put all the Bible you can into it.**
- Preach not yourself, your opinions, agendas or experiences, but **PREACH THE WORD!**

- **And when are we to preach the word, well Paul continues...**

***2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; (2 Timothy 4:2)***

- And what that means is, **always be ready**, always be prepared to preach the word.
- Whether it's **convenient or inconvenient**.
- You must not reserve preaching to only when **you feel like it**,
- or when you are **psychologically ready**,
- or when the **time seems good (or perfect)**.
- **I remember when I was in college**,
- A friend and I went to a **local park** to preach the word (to share our faith).
- However, as we walked around and talked about the different people we saw.
- Somehow, we never found the right (perfect person)
- or it was **never right time to approach them with the gospel**.
- We spent **most of our time** finding excuses why **we couldn't preach the word**.
- And so, we left discouraged, sharing with no one.
- **We were not ready in season and out of season**.
- And so, Paul is saying to Pastors, Sunday School Teachers, Bible Study Leaders, Disciple Makers, and all believers who represent Christ in this world.
- We must, at all times, **come rain or shine**, be ready to declare the word of God.
- Whether we feel like it or not, **whether we think our presentation is adequate or not**.
- The **call here in 2 Timothy** is for **radical availability**.
- Always being available to be used by God **to communicate his Word**.
- **In season and out of season**.
- Now to do that, we must reflect back on the application **from last week's message**.
- Again, **in 2 Timothy 3:16-17** Paul proclaimed the nature and value of Scripture...

***16 All Scripture is breathed out by God... (2 Timothy 3:16)***

- The Bible is inspired by God.
- And therefore, it is...

***...profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)***

- And what was the **application from this passage?**
- Spend more time **reading, studying, listening to, meditating on, memorizing, applying, teaching and being taught God's word**.
- **That you too might be equipped for every good work**.

- And certainly, one of if not the greatest works God has for his people is proclaiming His Word.
- But to do that we must **know the word**.
- And to know the word we must **study the word**.
- All of us, **not just pastors, missionaries, and Bible College professors**.
- Each and every believer should make every **effort to make it part of their life to know the word of God**.
- We should learn **the themes of the books**.
- We should **memorize crucial passages**.
- We should **know the stories**. Not just David and Goliath but **David and Bathsheba and David and Absalom**.
- We should understand the **big picture of God's Word, from Genesis to Revelation**.
- **That is, His Redemptive work throughout History**.
- We should also know about the key men and women in Scripture.
- Studying their lives, that you might learn from and proclaim their positive and negative examples.
- And if we do that (or as we are doing that) when it comes time to preach the word,
- **we can put all the Bible we can into it**.
- So be ready to preach the word **in season and out of season**.
- And then **Paul gives** three quick commands that characterize what is involved in preaching the word.
- As the word goes forth, in season and out of season, the preacher must...

**reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. (2 Timothy 4:2)**

- The first two words, **reprove and rebuke**, are very similar to the words Paul used in verse **16 of Chapter three** which says that Scripture is...

**...profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction,**

- And so, when the word is preached (or taught) the preacher is to reprove and rebuke.
- Now if you enjoy (**relish**) **reproving (correcting)** and rebuking,
- **You're probably not fit for the ministry**.
- But if you do not do these things, **you're not fulfilling your God given responsibility**.
- **Reproval** involves **showing people where they are wrong**.
- And **Rebuke** involves telling them to stop.
- And so, not from their own opinions or beliefs,
- **BUT from the word of God**, the preacher must **seek to correct wrong actions, thoughts and attitudes**.
- And this means he must not be a **people pleaser or popularity seeker**.
- He must not be a **politician whose sermons are based on the latest opinion poll**.
- He must, **based on the truth of God's word**, reprove and rebuke.

- But you can't stop there, along with reproof and rebuking the preacher must also...

### ***exhort with complete patience and teaching***

- That word exhort in the Greek is ***parakaleō***. (***PARA-KA-LAY-O***)
- It has the idea of not only exhorting **but coming alongside someone** comforting,
- helping and encouraging them.
- In fact, **this is the verb form of the noun translated Comforter or Helper in John 15:26.**
- Jesus said...

***<sup>26</sup> "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. (John 15:26)***

- So, like the Holy Spirit, or as an **agent of the Holy Spirit**,
- the preacher **must not only reprove and rebuke**,
- but he must **come along side and exhort, comfort, help his hearers.**
- As we communicate the word of God to people,
- we must come alongside them with encouraging words.
- "That's right. You're doing fine. You're making progress. That was great, you got it"
- And in doing this, you are called to **immense "patience"** because you will rarely see quick results in your ministry.
- **So, reproof and rebuke must be teamed with exhortation, patience and careful teaching,**
- or they will be **unprofitable.**
- No one will listen **to a preacher** (or any believer) who has nothing encouraging to say from God's word.
- And so, **we have seen the charge to**

***<sup>2</sup> preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. (2 Timothy 4:2)***

- And if hearing this charge causes you to **feel inadequate to carry it out** then welcome to the club, **because no one in themselves can carry it out.**
- But we are **not in ourselves, we are in Christ.**
- And this charge is an invitation to let God work in and through you to communicate his glorious word in the church and to the world.
- **Why?**

- Well, that's what **Paul addresses next...**

### 3. The Reason to Preach the Word

- Paul gives it to Timothy straight.
- The reason why he must preach the Word is because people naturally move away from the truth.
- The reason he **must reprove, rebuke and exhort is because...**

***<sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. (2 Timothy 4:3-4)***

- The time is coming, points to the future,
- but this certainly applies to the whole of Biblical and Human history, past, present and future.
- This could be a description of **how Isreal received the word of God in the past.**
- In fact, in the prophet **Jeremiah** lamented,

***<sup>31</sup> the prophets prophesy falsely and...my people love to have it so, (Jeremiah 5:31)***

- God later explained to Ezekiel,

***<sup>32</sup> And behold, you are to them like one who sings lustful songs with a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument, for they hear what you say, but they will not do it. (Ezekiel 33:32)***

- From the beginning people have based what they believe not on truth,
- **but on what they perceive is best for them.**

***they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,***

- Also, people love to hear something different and sensational

***what their itching ears want to hear***

- That phrase **itching ears** literally means "**tickled in their hearing**"
- So, they seek teachers who will confirm their illusions (delusions), their passions, their desires.
- This was certainly happening with the false teachers in Timothy's present.
- And it **continued throughout Church History.**
- In the fourth century **Gregory of Nazianzus** wrote concerning "itching ears,"

***When this syndrome is in place, people who call themselves Christian will find the truth in Christ Jesus intolerable and will seek to stamp it out. (Gregory of Nazianzus)***

- **And this is certainly true today.**
- There are preachers with large churches filling sports arenas by telling people what they want to hear about their money or politics, or just by entertaining them.
- There are also those who proclaim strange doctrines (that often focus on the preacher's certainty about Biblically unclear future events).

- And these doctrines have nothing to do with growing in our relationship with God
- They are just **novel ideas** that appeal to **human curiosity**.
- And all of this is done in the **name of Christ, using the “Word of God”**
- Hand picking various Scripture, **taking them out of context** to make whatever point suits their agenda.
- And as **this false teaching** goes forth there are those who...

***...will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.***

- That word **myth** simply means **a tale, a fiction, a fable**.
- And the point is that **most people prefer myths** that tickle their ears and fulfill their passions.
- **Instead of the truth of God’s word.**
- But that should not stop us **from preaching the word**.
- **It should motivate us to preach more diligently.**
- Because implied in Paul’s words is the fact that through preaching the truth of God’s word that we can rescue some people from wandering into myths.
- But we must preach the **whole counsel of God’s word**,
- not just verses that promote our agenda.
- Preaching the **word in its historical setting**,
- understanding what the Biblical author meant not what we want it to mean.
- And preaching in the context of the whole Bible.
- Not isolated verses but **harmonizing them with all Scripture**.
- But again, to do that takes study, it takes time and hard work.
- **But it is well worth it.**
- It is certainly worth it for **me as I seek to preach the word on Sunday morning**.
- But I assure you it is worth it to you as **you seek to communicate the word of God in your individual context**.
- **So, we’ve seen the seriousness, the charge, and the reason for preaching the word.**
- And the **Apostle Paul concludes** with...

#### **4. The Requirements to Preach the Word**

- As he’s done throughout this letter Paul makes a distinction between the false teachers, false believers and Timothy.
- He’s just described those who will not endure sound teaching.
- And then he says to Timothy, **who must continue to preach the sound word of God...**

***<sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:5)***

- Timothy, even though there are people who will not endure sound teaching.
- You must always be sober-minded.
- Or as the **NIV translates it...**

***5 But you, keep your head in all situations... (2 Timothy 4:5 NIV)***

- Timothy be cool in all circumstances.
- Don't worry, stay calm, and continue to preach the word.
- Getting upset and **railing against false teachers**, or a **world turned upside down** will not be effective.
- I am amazed at how many Pastors today, instead of preaching the word of God,
- spend much of their time talking about how we as Christians need to get involved politically, to change our evil culture.
- And I am not against political involvement.
- But my job, and the job of every pastor and believer is first and foremost to preach the word.
- And by the way, the only way we are actually going to change our culture in any real lasting and meaningful ways is **by PREACHING THE WORD OF GOD!**
- **Only the gospel of Jesus Christ can transform a lost person and therefore a lost culture.**
- **Now along with being sober minded, you must...**

***endure suffering***

- If you preach the truth of God's word, **it will result in suffering of some kind.**
- Because as we **saw earlier** there are those **who will not endure sound teaching.**
- They will **rebel against it and in some cases**, they will lash out against the preacher.
- And this is especially true when you...

***do the work of an evangelist***

- Timothy probably didn't have the gift of evangelism and yet he was to evangelize.
- He like all believers was to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- And in this context, teaching the basic truths of the gospel was to be a big part of Timothy's preaching.
- The good news was to **be constantly on his lips.**
- He was **to preach it to non-believers and believers alike.**
- **Calling the former to trust in Jesus Christ for the first Time.**
- And the **later to continue trusting in Christ.**
- Preaching the word always centers on **preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

- And finally, Paul says, **Timothy**

### ***fulfil your ministry***

- Again, this may be meant to encourage sometimes Timid Timothy to boldly preach the word of God.
- For that was his primary area of ministry.
- But it should speak to each and every one of us, for God gives everyone of his children a ministry.
- It may not involve preaching the word every Sunday morning.
- But it will, **in some way**, involve proclaiming the word of God in your world.
- And so, no matter what ministry God gives you.
- Fulfill your ministry, do it, don't neglect it.
- And if you're not sure what it is, **ask him**
- and ask your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to help you determine your ministry in the body of Christ and to the lost world.
- **And then start doing IT!**
- For Jesus - your judge, your Savior, your king - will always be present, empowering you to fulfill your God given ministry.
- And his charge will always, **in one way or another**, include...

***<sup>2</sup> preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.... <sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:2, 5)***

### **Prayer**