

## Ministry

PAUL'S LETTER OF SECOND TIMOTHY CONTAINS HIS FINAL WORDS TO TIMOTHY.

- 1 I solemnly 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 preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.
- 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,
- 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.
- 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.
- 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.
- 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;
- 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

(2 Tim. 4:1-8)

FIVE KEY WORDS: CHARGE, COMMAND, CONDITION, COMMITMENT, & CROWN

### I. Charge v. 1

### II. Commands v. 2

...preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. (V. 2)

### III. Conditions vs. 3-4

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine... v. 3

Williams Version: "They will no longer listen to wholesome teaching,"

- 3 ...but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,
- 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to

myths.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO ARE WITHOUT SOUND DOCTRINE?

1. TURN AWAY FROM THE TRUTH
2. TURN ASIDE TO MYTHS

### ***Turn aside***

– A STRONG MEDICAL TERM USED TO DESCRIBE WRENCHING A LIMB OUT OF JOINT.

***...THEY WILL...***

1. Reject sound doctrine
2. Respect false teachers
3. Resist the truth

THE SECRET OF SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY: SELFLESS COMMITMENT!

## **IV. Commitment vs. 5-7**

But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. Vs. 5-6

COMMITMENT:

- REALISM – CLEAR THINKING - be sober in all things
- SACRIFICE – ENDURE THE STRUGGLE - endure hardship
- EVANGELISM – FOCUS ON SOUL-WINNING - do the work of an evangelist
- FINISH – STAY FOR THE WHOLE RACE - fulfill your ministry

**THE MINISTRY IS: AN INCREDIBLE CALL OF AN IMPERFECT MAN  
TO AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME.**

## **FOUR DUTIES OF A PASTOR**

**EQUIPPING, CONFRONTING, EVANGELIZING, & SERVING**

### **1. EQUIPPING**

PASTORS MUST PREACH AND TEACH THE WORD SO THAT SAINTS ARE EQUIPPED.

THE NATURE OF THE SCRIPTURE.

ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD AND PROFITABLE

FOR TEACHING,

FOR REPROOF,

FOR CORRECTION,

FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS;

THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE ADEQUATE, **EQUIPPED** FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.

2 TIM 3:16-17

**The Word Equips and a pastor's calling is to equip the saints.**

11 And He gave some as ... pastors and teachers,

12 for the **equipping** of the saints for the work of service,  
to the building up of the body of Christ;

(Eph. 4:11-12)

Timothy is charged and commanded to preach the word ... V 2

RICHARD BAXTER praised those preachers who

“preached as never sure to preach again

... as a dying man to dying men.”

## **2. CONFRONTING**

PASTOR MUST CONFRONT WRONGDOING AND CORRECT ERROR.

The pastor must maintain an uncompromising standard of  
purity

with respect to doctrine and teaching.

THE LIST OF COMMANDS IS BY NATURE CONFRONTATIONAL:

...preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

2 TIM. 4:2

Preach the word - proclaim

Be ready – Urgency

Reprove – Conviction – open their eyes to their sin

Rebuke – Warning Consequences

Exhort - Comfort

Vance Havner wrote,

“A preacher may be wrapped in the robes of learning, and his study walls may be decked with diplomas. His home may be filled with travel souvenirs from many lands, and he may wear all the trappings of ecclesiastical prestige and pageantry.

But he cannot function without unction.”

### **3. EVANGELIZING**

... do the work of an evangelist

THE PASTOR MUST LEAD THE EFFORT TO EVANGELIZE THE COMMUNITY.

The primary reason for the church is to make disciples by first evangelizing then teaching.

“Go therefore and make disciples ... baptizing them ...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you ....” (Matt. 28:18-20)

I lost a very little word only the other day.

It was a very nasty word I really had not meant to say;

But then, it was not really lost as from my lips it flew,  
My little brother picked it up and now he says it too.”

Evangelism and discipleship isn't always taught, it is mostly caught.

If the pastor is a soul-winner then his people will be.

Evangelism is...

... doing our job to bring the message of the good news of Christ's death and resurrection to a world that needs forgiveness.

Sometimes we need to know a little about apologetics to speak through their mental roadblocks.

After listening to a lecture on evolution by a science professor, a student wrote a poem and titled it “The Amazing Professor.”

Once I was a tadpole when I began to begin.

Then I was a frog with my tail tucked in.

Next I was a monkey on a coconut tree.

Now I am a doctor with a Ph. D.

#### **4. SERVING**

...fulfill your ministry

MINISTRY – USED FOR THE OFFICE OF DEACON

- DIAKONIA IS THE ACT OF WAITING ON TABLES
- (NT METAPHOR FOR SERVICE TO OTHERS.)
- THE MOST BASIC FUNCTION OF A PASTOR.

PAUL ENDED HIS LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT COLOSSI:

“TAKE HEED TO THE MINISTRY WHICH YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN THE LORD, THAT YOU MAY FULFILL IT.” (COL. 4:17)

Paul was committed to fulfilling his calling to serve the church.

...fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

HAVING LIVED HIS LIFE AS A LIVING SACRIFICE THE TIME HAD COME FOR THE FINAL SACRIFICE

PAUL'S URGENT FINAL WORDS: CROWN FOR SERVICE.

## V. Crown

I have fought the good fight,  
 I have finished the course,  
 I have kept the faith;  
 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness,  
 which the Lord, the righteous Judge,  
 will award to me on that day;  
 and not only to me,  
 but also to all who have loved His appearing. (2 Tim. 4:7-8)

**fight** – agon – “a striving for victory.”

“Agony” – giving all of oneself to win a contest or to reach a goal.

For it is for this we labor and strive because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.

1 Tim 4:10

Finished – tetelestai – Gk -Jesus' declaration from the cross: *It is finished*

Work hard and finish well. A reward is coming when Christ returns.

Paul longed for Christ's appearing. He lived with eternal perspective..

People long for Christ's appearing, especially when they face difficulties.

However, Paul knowing he was going to die, longed for the rewards.

“I am already being poured out...” – To be drained of one's life energy.

“and the time of my departure has come.”

Jesus, the righteous Judge, would reward his efforts.

The crown of righteousness is for those who love Christ's appearing?

Those who have promoted Christ's kingdom love His appearing.

Those who have invested nothing have no desire for Christ to return.

They are like the servant who received one talent from his Master and then hid it in the ground.

When his master returned he held him accountable for what he had done. The Master called him a 'wicked and lazy slave,' and then cast him out.

What was he thinking? Entrusted with a talent, given clear instructions of what to do with it, and warned of his master's return and promised accountability, yet he did nothing with the opportunity.

Paul spoke of the Lord's coming and judgment,

and then of the reward he would receive for faithful service.

in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness,  
 ...and not only to me,  
 but also to all who have loved His appearing.

The greatest way to love Christ's appearing is to be like Paul, who ...

...fought the good fight... finished the course... and kept the faith.  
 • Like Paul, we demonstrate our love by a sacrifice.

**Conclusion: Crowns in heaven -**

**Rev. 4:9-11**

Image of believers - 24 elders

- in heaven casting their crowns before the One who rewarded them.

SWINDOLL WRITES,

"As we all join this magnificent act of worship, we will be face down on a brilliantly transparent, shining, mirror-like street, where

we'll see ourselves for the first time as God sees us. Stop and imagine yourself there. What will you bring to that wondrous ceremony?"