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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**“PREACH THE WORD”**

**2 Timothy 4:1-8**

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﻿***II Timothy 4:1 "I charge [thee] therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;"***

After emphasizing the divine source and purpose of Scripture, Paul directs a solemn charge to his faithful son in the faith, Timothy. It was not a private charge from apostle to young pastor. Rather, this was a public charge delivered before witnesses: God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The same Lord Jesus Christ will one day judge all humanity and reign as King in his glorious kingdom. Jesus is the Judge of the world. We are judged His, or not His. The sheep (Believers) belong to Jesus. The rest (Unbelievers) belong to Satan.

***1 Thessalonians 4:16-17***

***16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:***

***17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.***

The God who called Timothy into ministry was delivering a sacred command to him through his authoritative messenger Paul. And he directs that same sacred command to every man who takes up the mantle of pastor in a local church. The "quick", in the verse above, are speaking of those who will be alive at the coming of the Lord. These are those who will be changed in the twinkling of an eye. The word "therefore" connects this chapter to the preceding chapter. In the light of all the signs of the last days in the last chapter, this is what you are to do. Paul says, God and the Lord Jesus Christ are my witness that I am guiding you correctly. The phrase “at His appearing” specifically means when Jesus appears in the sky to call His children out of the great tribulation of this earth. However, His appearing is separate from when he sets up "His kingdom, that is" His 1000-year millennium reign on this earth. In this context there are three appearings of the Lord Jesus Christ in relation to His Kingdom being established.

***Hebrews 9:26 "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by sacrifice of himself."***

***Hebrews 9:24 "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us."***

***Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.***

***II Timothy 4:2 "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."***

The word translated “preach” means “publish or proclaim openly.” Paul does not just say preach (proclaim). He says preach “the Word.” God’s Word. The Bible, and only the Bible (God’s Word), it’s message (The Gospel) and its messenger (The Lord Jesus Christ), are the absolute final authority for Christian individuals, families, churches, and even the broader culture.

***Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”***

***2 Corinthians 4:5 “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.”***

***Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”***

***Galatians 1:9 “As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”***

Biblical preaching confronts us with God, through the Word, inspired by the Holy Spirit, through the personality of a preacher, so that we will understand and respond to God. Preaching includes reading the Word, explaining the Word, and applying it. When Paul tells Timothy to preach the Word, he is not only speaking of the idea of a formal setting behind a pulpit or in a church service, that he and certain “gifted men have been appointed to.

***Ephesians 4:8 “Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.”***

***Ephesians 4:11-13***

***11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;***

***12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:***

***13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:***

But He is also speaking of “lifestyle” preaching. Therefore, all Christians can and should do this. Every believer (male or female, young or old, weak or strong) are commanded to Preach! Preaching or proclaiming the Word can happen in an informal conversation over coffee or in a formal counseling session. Parents can proclaim the Word to their children around the dinner table, in the backyard, or on a vacation to the beach. The Word can be proclaimed on TV, radio, and the internet. The Word can be proclaimed by books, magazine articles, and email. The Word can be proclaimed through Facebook posts and Tweets. The Word can be proclaimed through music and the visual arts. The Word can be proclaimed by a get-well card to a sick friend. The Word can be proclaimed by a public billboard or in a private telephone conversation. The Word can be proclaimed by men, women, and children of every age and station in life. All believers are responsible to preach, that is, to communicate God’s Word to others in whatever situation we find ourselves in with whatever tools of communication we can muster. There is a popular saying among many Christians attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: “Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words.” Nothing else can do what Scripture does. "Being instant in season and out of season" is just saying stay ready all the time.

***1 Peter 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”***

***Mark 16:15-20***

***15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.***

***16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.***

***17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;***

***18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.***

***19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.***

***20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.***

Preach whenever and wherever you have the opportunity. "Reprove" and "rebuke" mean to tell a fault. When you see a brother in error, tell him.

***Matthew 18:15 "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother."***

"Exhort" can mean to pray, comfort, or draw near. This is just saying not to get weary in preaching to those who are afar off. Preach to them, pray for them, in love, tell them of their errors, then preach to them again. Do not give up, until they draw nigh unto God. Give them the Truth, and do not get weary in giving the Truth. Have patience with them and they will hear and receive. A pastor should preach when he knows he’ll hear an “amen!” and when he knows he’ll be reviled. He must preach the parts of Scripture that people like and preach the parts they don’t. In other words, a preacher must use the Bible to do what Paul said it’s “profitable” for.

***2 Timothy 3:16-17***

***16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:***

***17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.***

Preaching should teach and encourage. But preaching should also rebuke and correct. In a world that claims everything is relative, people ought to be able to hear the absolute truth of the Word of God.

***John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.***

***1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.***

***II Timothy 4:3 "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"***

Paul explains why the Word must be preached? For the time will come when people (saints) will not want spiritual food that is healthy but simply something that tastes good. They’ll even gather teachers who will satisfy their desires, who will address the itch they want scratched. We are experiencing this in the church world today. Sound doctrine teaches sacrifice of self. Sound doctrine teaches walking each day in the salvation Christ has provided for you. Sound doctrine teaches living a holy separated life to God. Sound doctrine is the Word of God. There is a great falling away in the church today, not only in the physical sense, but in the spiritual sense, as well. Many go to church but want to hear a message of nothing but God's love. They would tell us not to speak against adultery or homosexual activity, because we will hurt some of the member's feelings. They would have us preach things pleasant to the flesh of man. The sermon that appeals to the flesh of mankind, is preaching to itching ears. Not many want to hear about the blood of Jesus. Not many want to know that Jesus is Judge, as well as Saviour. Not many want to hear that we must take up our cross daily and follow Him. Most want to hear, that when they become a Christian, all of their problems will be gone. Most would like to hear, that when they come to God, they will never be sick again. They want to believe that their money problems are over. The sad thing is that we are not equipping our people to face hardship.

***John 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."***

***II Timothy 4:4 "And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."***

The truth of the matter is many will turn from the Truth to a good time religion which pleases their flesh. They will turn from the truth toward myths. "Fables" are speaking of doctrines that are not Truth. Sinful people don’t naturally run toward what is holy and righteous. They prefer what makes them feel good. That’s why they need to hear the Word faithfully preached. We all need to devote more time to the study of God's Word. The Word will straighten out our, thinking and we will not be so easily swayed with messages that Paul would classify as fables.

***Titus 1:14 "Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth."***

***II Peter 1:16 "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty."***

***II Timothy 4:5 "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."***

Timothy couldn’t control the response to his sermons. But he could commit himself to God’s calling on his life. He could exercise self-control (letting the gospel transform his life), endure hardship (suffering for the gospel), and do the work of an evangelist (proclaiming the gospel). In this way, he would fulfill his ministry. He’d complete what he started. The work of the evangelist is to save the lost. This watching in all things means to stay grounded in the Word and be moderate. Paul warns Timothy again, that there are afflictions associated with serving God. The full proof is telling Timothy to not waver in his ministry. He must be fully persuaded, and, also, give this message without wavering from the Truth.

***II Timothy 4:6 "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand."***

Paul has probably been sentenced to die, when he wrote these words. He wanted Timothy to know that he was ready to die for the gospel. He probably was actually looking forward to being with his Lord and being out of this life of hardship. Because these are the apostle’s final words to this young man whom he dearly loves, and he saved this most important exhortation for the end. Having delivered his charge, Paul now pens his own obituary: I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time for my departure is close. Paul uses Old Testament imagery to describe his impending death. Just as drink offerings were poured out to God on the altar, the apostle recognized that his life was being poured out, and the time for [his] departure was close. He was sitting in a Roman prison, awaiting his execution.

***II Timothy 4:7 "I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith:"***

Paul's faith never wavered, regardless of the hardship he was facing. Many men would have given up long ago. He had ministered to the very end. God has a job for each of us to do in this life. Paul is saying, he has done what the Lord Jesus called him to do. He believes in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord just as strongly at the end, as he did when he first met him on the road to Damascus. Paul says “I have fought a good fight.” Everyone gets into fights, and most of the fights in which we engage are not good ones. There are battles you shouldn’t wage, motivated by pride and selfishness. And then there are things worth fighting for, things that truly matter. Paul fought the noblest battle of all: the battle for people’s souls. He held nothing back.

***II Timothy 4:8 "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."***

Now that his work on this earth is done, he is looking forward to standing before the Lord Jesus and hear Him say, well done, thy good and faithful servant. The crown of righteousness is speaking of us being in right standing before God, because the Lord Jesus has clothed us in His righteousness. There will be a crown awaiting those who believe. According to ancient tradition, Paul was beheaded. But that frightening fate made no difference to him. Not only would the Lord restore his head to his body, but he would also place a crown on it. And not only on his head, but on the heads of all those who have loved Christ’s appearing through faithful living.

***I Peter 5:4 "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."***

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who shall judge the quick and the dead?
2. When shall they be judged?
3. Who are the "quick"?
4. What does the word "therefore" show us about this Scripture?
5. What is "His kingdom"?
6. What did he tell Timothy to preach?
7. What other things did Paul tell Timothy to do pertaining to the ministry?
8. What is meant by "being instant in season and out of season"?
9. The time will come when they will not endure \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. They will heap to themselves teachers, having \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
11. What are some of the things sound doctrine teaches?
12. What is the message most church goers want to hear?
13. The sermon of itching ears appeals to the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_.
14. What are some of the things not many want to hear?
15. What do most churchgoers want to hear?
16. They shall turn away their ears from the \_\_\_\_\_\_.
17. What is it saying when it says "fables"?
18. In verse 5, Paul tells Timothy to the work of an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
19. What is laid up for Paul in heaven?
20. What is Jesus called in verse 8?