

# A Father's Farewell

## 2nd Timothy

### A Father's Final Charge To His Son

#### Key idea:

Church leaders are called to preach the whole Word of God, never altering it to suit the desires of others, so that they may faithfully fulfill their call.

#### Key text:

2 Timothy 4:1-5

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup> Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup> But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

#### Key points:

1. Paul summed up the letter by giving an awesome charge to Timothy, intensifying its importance by reminding Timothy it was from God the Father and Jesus Christ, Who was going to return again and judge everyone - including Timothy.
2. The central aspect of the call was for Timothy to preach the whole Word of God, using positive instruction, negative correction, public proclamation, one on one conversation, to carefully teach the people all of the Word of God.
3. Timothy must not be surprised by strong resistance to the truth of his message, for the last days are times of spiritual deception and moral decay, and people will prefer messages that reinforce their own desires rather than giving them the truth of God's Word.
4. No matter the opposition, Timothy must faithfully fulfill all the aspects of his call to teach God's whole Word, protect the flock, and reach out to the lost.

### **Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. Why does Paul give this final charge to Timothy "in the presence of God and Christ Jesus"?
3. Why does Paul remind Timothy that Jesus will return, that He will judge the living and the dead, and that His kingdom will rule forever?
4. How does the call to "preach the Word" link back to 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and the doctrine of the inspiration and sufficiency of the Scripture?
5. Why does Paul list so many aspects of Timothy's ministry - preaching the Word, correcting, rebuking, and exhorting/encouraging? Are all of these really necessary?
6. If a church must preach the Word, correct, rebuke, and exhort, how will this work out in the weekly preaching of the Scripture? What methods line up well with this entire array? Which ones are more likely to abandon one or more of these areas?
7. Why does Paul give so much attention to resistance and negative response? Why is it important for Timothy and future generations to understand this?
8. How does this passage apply to the building of a healthy local church? How does it apply in personal life and service to God?
9. What does a healthy intake of the Word look like in the life of an individual believer? In the life of a congregation?
10. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to pray for and call?

### **Preview of Next Week: 2 Timothy 4:6-8**