

Theme: 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.

I. Intro - Commissioned!

- A. I recently received a photo of friends commissioning
- B. An awesome time - but so much was unknown!
- C. People have commissioned and then had to fight in the Civil War; WWI; WWII; Vietnam; War on Terror; etc.
- D. The commission is for good and bad times!
- E. Paul's final charge to Timothy is 2 Timothy 4:1-5

II. An Awesome Charge!

A. An awesome charge

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:** 2 Timothy 4:1

- 1. "I give you this charge" (Διαμαρτύρομαι) is 1st word
- 2. The word refers to a solemn charge or demand
- 3. This is the point to which Paul has been driving
- 4. It is a father's final charge to his son

B. An awesome charge intensified

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:** 2 Timothy 4:1

- 1. I give this charge in the Presence of God

- 2. I give this charge in the Presence of Jesus Christ
- 3. Jesus Christ will judge the living and the dead - including you Timothy!
- 4. Jesus will return and His kingdom will rule forever!
- 5. Paul certainly has Timothy's attention for this final charge to his spiritual son!

III. A Father's Final Charge To His Son

A. Teach the whole Word of God!

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction. 2 Timothy 4:2

- 1. Five imperatives revolve around teaching the Word
- 2. Preach - κηρύσσω - to make an official announcement; to make known by an official herald; to make a public declaration.
 - a. The primary task is positive teaching of the Word
 - b. The remaining imperatives flow out from this
 - c. Here the call is to preach the Word of God
- 3. Prepared in and out of season
 - a. Stand ready in good times and bad times
 - b. Could refer to good and bad times for Timothy
 - c. But probably good and bad times in terms of reception by the ones hearing
 - d. Some times seem more opportune than others, but Timothy must never alter the message to suit the times. He must always preach the Word!

4. Correct - ἔλεγχον - same word as 'rebuke' in 2 Timothy 3:16

- a. Bring to light and expose false ideas
- b. Timothy must not only teach the Word of God, but correct false ideas that do not line up with the Word

5. Rebuke - ἐπιτίμησον - to rebuke, reprove, warn

- a. Similar to 'correct' (ἔλεγχον)
- b. Probably more focus on actions rather than ideas
- c. Clearly, Timothy must preach all of the Word so that errors in thought and lifestyle may be corrected

6. Encourage - παρακαλέω - exhort; urge; appeal

- a. Back to more 'positive' teaching of the Word
- b. Urging people to right thought and action

7. Great patience and careful instruction - ἐν πάσῃ μακροθυμίᾳ καὶ διδαχῇ

- a. Describing attitude and method Timothy must have to do all of this - both demeanor and method matter
- b. He must be patient, not getting exasperated as he has to continue to teach, correct, rebuke, exhort
- c. He will have to use 'every kind of teaching' - positive instruction, negative correction, public proclamation, one on one conversation, all of the Word

8. Note this all requires teaching the whole Word of God - not just the parts that are easy or positive.

You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house...²⁷ For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Acts 20:20, 27

a. Paul told this to elders in Ephesus where Timothy is now ministering

b. He taught the whole will of God - not just what they had wanted to hear

c. He used all types of instruction - public proclamation/monologue and small group or individual conversation

d. Timothy must follow this pattern to protect the Church and keep it healthy.

B. Don't be surprised by resistance

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. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 2 Timothy 4:3-4

1. The last days are times of spiritual deception and moral decay

2. People will not want sound/healthy doctrine

a. This is a huge focus in the PE - 9 of 12 occurrences of 'sound/healthy' in the NT!

b. But they will not want this healthy teaching of the Word - they will prefer the junk food of false teaching that will make them sick

3. They will not "put up with"/"regard it with tolerance" the sound teaching - they will turn their ears away from it!

4. They will heap up false teachers who will tell them what they want to hear - not teaching all the word, never correcting or rebuking, not applying the Word in public teaching and private conversation.

5. Timothy must understand that the charge is not dependent upon the spiritual environment or response of people - his task is to proclaim the whole Word of God!
6. He will not be judged by the receptivity of the people but by his faithfulness to fulfill the call given to him by Jesus Christ!

C. Fulfill all the parts of you call

But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. 2 Timothy 4:5

1. But you - a strong contrast with the people and the false teachers
2. Keep your head - νῆφε - be sober.
 - a. The teachers and people are drunk with deception
 - b. You must remain sober and vigilant to hold onto the truth in the midst of deception and decay
3. Endure hardship - κακοπαθέω - to suffer misfortune; to bear hardship patiently.
 - a. Paul used the same word in 2 Timothy 2:9 - and related words other times
 - b. This is a key theme in 2 Timothy because faithfully fulfilling the call given by Jesus will require suffering in the face of spiritual deception and moral decay.
4. Do the work of an evangelist
 - a. Not referring to the office or ministry of a formal evangelist - proclaiming the Word will always entail proclaiming the Gospel!
 - b. Do the hard work of faithfully teaching the Gospel, the good deposit of sound, healthy teaching of the Word of God.

5. Discharge all the duties of your ministry - τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον - completely fulfilling your ministry.
 - a. This is the final summary of all that has gone before
 - b. Your commission from Jesus includes many tasks - positively teaching the Word; correcting false ideas; rebuking evil actions; ministering in public and private; protecting the flock; reaching out to the lost
 - c. Timothy, fulfill all the parts of the commission given to you by Jesus Christ!

IV. Applying the Word

A. Do I see the sufficiency of God's Word?

1. Last week we saw that God's Written Word is inspired/God-breathed - the source is God
2. This week - the sufficiency of God's Written Word
3. Times may change - but the Word of God is sufficient in every age and for every situation!
4. The Word of God is sufficient and powerful as parents sow it into their children.
5. The Word of God is sufficient and powerful as the church builds its worship and life around the Word.
6. There are voices that say the Church must update her methods with the times, that the Word, and that preaching the Word, are no longer fit for this age - but this is a deadly error!
7. The ministry of the Church and the elders must be centered on the Word of God!

8. This means that we do not need CEO's who can run the church like a business, but shepherds who study, proclaim, and help people apply the Word of God.
9. This means that we do not need men who will run the church like a military unit, but who will patiently and carefully keep speaking the Word to point the flock to Jesus.
10. Whatever we may face, if BRCC holds to the Word of God we will be sustained by the Spirit to remain faithful.

B. Fed by the Lord's Word and at His Table

1. Each week we open the Lord's Word and He feeds us as He has promised.
2. Each week we come to the Lord's Table and He feeds us as He has promised.
3. This is not true because I "feel" it - it is true because He has declared it to be true!
4. Come to the Lord's Table to be fed by Christ Himself!

C. The Lord's Table

A Father's Final Charge To His Son

2 Timothy 4:1-5

May 1, 2022

Communion

1 Corinthians 15:58

Teaching keywords: Word of God; leadership; false teaching and heresy; evangelism and missions; eschatology

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58

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: ²Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction. ³ 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. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. 2 Timothy 4:1–5