

2 Timothy 43 – Oct. 26, 2022 – Part 4

2 Timothy 4: 1-7 NIV – “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 *Preach 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 people 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.”

Vs. 2 - Preach the word. How we live our lives is our message. Walk/talk.

We preach the Word by our attitudes. God is **good**... can't live bitter.

God is **love**... get rid of hate. God is **comfort**... stop grieving.

We preach by way we stand/ fall. Be way we hold on/ give up.

Be prepared – Greek word **Epitithemi** - “stand.”

Idea - always be “standing by,” always “on-duty,” “ready to go.”

- Changing a tire can change a life. Let there be Jesus in this moment.

We don't **clock in/out** of our Faith or Witness. Watched 24/7

- **1 Pet. 3:15** – “**Always be prepared** to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”

In Season/Out - “timely and untimely” or “convenient and inconvenient.”

Some moments are meant for sharing; sometimes hearts are **open**

- **Times of difficulty** are often seasons of harvest... “in season”

- We seek out people who have gone thru **common experience**
- When someone knows what you've gone thru, **you can give the reason for the hope you have**

Correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience.

Good & bad ways of correcting people. People aren't bad... they are lost.

Must do it in positive way. Encourage! There is a **better way** to live.

Dr. Phil style – “how's that working out for you?”

Try Jesus.

Vs. 3 - Time will come – not sound doctrine.

Not all religions believe in Jesus.

Islam – Jesus was prophet, not son of God, but born of a virgin. Not Cruc.

Hindu – Jesus was a holy man, wise teacher, a God. Not only way to God

Buddhism – Jesus was enlightened man, wise teacher. Not divine.

Judaism – believe Jesus was a rabbi, teacher. Miracle worker.

Indeed, not all Christian religions believe in Jesus as Son of God, Savior.

New Age Movement – wise, moral teacher. Achieved “Christhood” -all...

Jehovah’s Witness – 1 God, no trinity. Jesus was created by Jehovah as the archangel Michael; is a lesser God. No physical resurrection. 1914

Unitarian Universalism – no common creed. No divine judgment. No teaching on life after death. Bible just another book, not Word of God.

Mormon – many gods, 3 kingdoms, no need to believe in Jesus to obtain immortality in 2 of 3 kingdoms. God was man who progressed godhood.

The time has arrived. Many religions, not all sound.

If we don’t know what the Bible says, we will fall for anything.

Pastors have a tough job. Can’t just say what people want to hear.

We need to hear truth to live in truth.

Vs. 5 - keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work...

We can’t control responses to the Gospel/truth/instruction

We **can** exercise **self control**. – Keep your head. Still be kind.

Speak love. Don’t judge. Don’t Condemn.

Endure hardship. It’s not easy to be salt/earth... light/hill.

Some will make fun of us... harass... persecute. But – here’s real hardship:

Being a consistent Christian is hard. Inconvenient. **Hardship on time.**

Put aside plans - help. Meeting needs - selfless.

Hardship on self-control. Hold tongue. Not retaliate. No hate.

God is just as interested in our **reactions**, as actions.

Do the Work. – What is the Christian job description?

Jesus simplified it to 2 things – **Love God, Love each other**

He also gave us a mission – make disciples; baptize them, teach them.

The most important work we do each day is what we do for Jesus.

2 Timothy 4: 6-8 NIV - “⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷ *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.* ⁸ Now there is in store 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 longed for his appearing.”

Not enough to **start** the Christian race. Not enough to **run** the race. We **must finish** the race. **Goal** in life = finish well.

Even if you have fallen, get up, and keep running.

- “Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith” (**Heb 12:1-2**).
- Jesus can get you to the finish line, but focus attention on him.

Paul’s **focus** is not on success. That’s b/c we can’t control others....

His focus is on whether he **kept the faith**. Was he **faithful**?

Our **greatest witness** is in keeping the faith thru challenges.

Our **goal** should be the crown of righteousness. Not “winning” now.

What we gain here is a loss there. Can’t take it with us.

Stay positive. Test negative. “**Find Us Faithful**” – **Steve Green**

Upcoming – Time Change in week ½ (10 days).

Thanksgiving in 28 days.

Christmas in 59 days