



Lights and Perfection, Inc.

Go and make disciples!

E-votional 91

Myths

2 Timothy 4:1-4 (ESV)

I 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: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

I would like to start with a quick estimated timeline of the words of this very important letter from Paul to Timothy. It is estimated to have been only a few years before Paul's martyrdom. Why is this important?

Well, for starters it is most likely the last message that Paul ever exchanged with Timothy. Next, because of this, I firmly believe that Paul knew that the time of his departure was at hand as noted in this same chapter in verse 6 as follows, "*For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.*" Furthermore, since this was the last message he would be exchanging with his young protégé, it would have been necessary to be very complete and serious in his last exhortation. It is almost like Paul was leaving his legacy into the hands of Timothy. All of this is important to understand the power of this final message.

Several things strike me in this final exhortation that I would love to touch on here. First, Paul says, "*I charge you in the Presence of God*" This is important because it signifies the seriousness of the message about to be delivered. In short, we must tune in with all that we are into what will be spoken next.

Second, the charge is broken down into five things that I believe are not only necessary for young Timothy but for every single believer. They are as follows, "*preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and*

exhort." The word must be preached, the preacher must be ready in season and out of season. And a faithful preacher or even teacher for that matter will also, "*reprove, rebuke, and exhort with complete patience.*" Below I have added, "*reprove, rebuke, and exhort,*" and the definitions from Helps Word Studies along with links.

Reprove 1651 elégxō – properly, to convince with solid, compelling evidence, especially to expose (prove wrong, connect). Taken from, <https://biblehub.com/greek/1651.htm>

Rebuke 2008 /epitimáō ("to warn by instructing") can mean "rebuke" but its fundamental sense is "warning to prevent something from going wrong" (see CBL, BAGD). Taken from, <https://biblehub.com/greek/2008.htm>

Exhort 3870 parakaléō (from 3844 /pará, "from close-beside" and 2564 /kaléō, "to call") – properly, "make a call" from being "close-up and personal." 3870 /parakaléō ("personally make a call") refers to believers offering up evidence that stands up in God's court. Taken from, <https://biblehub.com/greek/3870.htm>

I shared these three definitions because sometimes we forget that these are part of the duties of a faithful minister. The idea is that a faithful minister is charged before God to keep the commandment unstained and pure. Doing this requires a ready and willing mind and spirit as well as a discipline in keeping in step with the Spirit and commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. To reprove one must prove what is wrong with compelling evidence. To rebuke is simply to warn with such compelling evidence the one in the wrong in love to prevent such a one from doing wrong. And finally to exhort is to comfort, encourage, and console.

I find that these three, reprove, rebuke, and exhort go hand in hand and the overall scheme of things. It seems like they build upon one another to help fellow believers keep on the straight and narrow. However, as we continue reading this passage of scripture there is surely more to it than just that.

For example, let's look at why young Timothy was charged to keep these things. Paul describes why as follows, "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching." Paul knew there was coming a time of great difficulty in the church where people would not endure sound teaching it was just as much in Timothy's time as it surely has fallen upon our day as well. When I read the Scriptures, it was clear through many examples that the early church was more disciplined in keeping the believers in line with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It seems like today, many in today's Christian circles cannot endure sound teaching. It is almost as if they cannot even hear truth or repent.

Further, it is almost as if they don't hear something that is pleasing to their ears that they cannot even listen to the message. O how far have we drifted brothers and sisters from the pure spiritual milk of the Word of God?

This message is not meant for entertainment but for the purity of the Gospel and the true edification of the saints. Hallelujah!

Why could not these believers endure sound teaching? Well, Paul says that these have itching ears. The word here for itching means simply a desire of hearing something pleasing.

To be completely honest and transparent here for a moment, I will say that I have experienced the desire to only hear what is pleasing from time to time. However, through the Holy Spirit of God, I need to put out that desire and come to God in true humility and ask Him to search my heart and desires so that when He speaks I will be able to hear even if the end result is not pleasing to me. I think today this passage of Scripture is indicative of a church that is drifting from the true tenet of hearing the voice of God. It is like if it does not somehow please us and satisfy our own desires that we will not listen. Brothers and sisters, this ought not to be. Let God be true and every man a liar.

The last part I want to focus on stems from what happens when people have these spiritually itching ears. Very simple, they heap up teachers to suit their own desires and turn away into myths. The word for myths is as follows, again from the Helps Word Studies,

Myths 3454 *mýthos* – a myth; a false account, yet posing to be the truth; a fabrication (fable) which subverts (replaces) what is actually true. Taken from, <https://biblehub.com/greek/3454.htm>

There it is, a myth is a lie posing as truth. An illustration today would be someone that believes in God but does not believe in hell for they say, how can a loving God send people to hell. In saying this they turn away from the truth and satisfy their own itching ears and turn away to myths. Some myths like this may seem obvious to some yet to others maybe not. There are many more examples than this, this is but one illustration. Another idea of a myth would be a believer who chooses to believe any good idea about God that is not rooted in God's Word just because they think that it would be nice if God were like that. I have met a great many believers who have a great many beliefs that are nowhere in the Bible. We must be careful because we can be led astray and also lead others astray with these myths.

We must remember that just because something may seem good to us does not

necessarily mean that is of God. This message is not meant to condemn anyone. We must realize that God's Word is the best thing for us. God will only lead us for the good of His will for our lives.

Having an ear that is open to reproofs, rebukes, as well as encouragement is necessary to form our spiritual well being. The Lord is never trying to condemn one by the severity of a message but is trying to purify us as His own special people, who will be zealous for good works and truth. One that is continually bound by only wanting to hear something good about themselves is quite possibly bound by a lie or myth. Such a one will not grow very far because they cannot hear life-giving reproofs from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Don't get me wrong sometimes when the Lord speaks to me, it is to convict me. And indeed sometimes these rebukes and reproofs came through other godly people. I don't know maybe I am crazy, will anyone else confess the same craziness I am about to share. Encouragement to me is when the Lord is chastising me for my own good. Let me explain, I have learned that when the Lord is chastising me it is always for my good and the good of His will, so I have further learned that when this happens it is not because the Lord is somehow trying to condemn me. Rather He is trying to clean me and purify me and set me free in ways that I would not have known if I turned away to myths instead. I may be crazy to some because I say Praise the Lord for His reproofs and discipline.

There was a time in my life when I was going through great spiritual difficulty. I kept crying out to the Lord asking why this was happening. It was amazing because the passage of Scripture that the Lord kept bringing to me had to do with how He chastises those He loves. I have to tell you the truth, though the fire was hot and made me feel uncomfortable. When I knew it was the Lord doing it, I was comforted. This to me is just one facet of true Christianity. I wonder, do you feel the same way that I do about this most holy thing that the Lord does?

To conclude, we ought very simply to be the kind of people that are not prone to myths but are ever satisfied with whatever the Lord seems necessary for our lives. Discerning this in our lives can be difficult as the Lord does not always answer us on our timeline. But when He does answer, would you be satisfied even if the Lord said something about you that you may not like at the moment? Or would you turn aside to myths to suit your own desires?

I know this was a lengthy teaching but my heart's desire from the Lord is that it would cause you to reflect on your walk and bring it to the next level. Remember that the Lord is always and only good to such as are pure in heart. A pure in heart child of God wants whatever the Father has for them regardless of what it

looks like. Sure there are going to be times that seem unfair at the moment or even scary but understand that God loves you and has an understanding that is far beyond us and simply trust Him and trust His process and always trust His Word. To God be the glory!

If you want to check out this teaching in video form click the green button below that says 'Click Here For Video Version,' and you will be taken to our YouTube channel.

In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
Lights and Perfection, Inc

[Click Here For Video Version](#)



©2020 Lights and Perfection, Inc. | 5215 Hartford Lane, Wildwood, FL 34785, US

[Like](#) [Tweet](#)

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by
[GoDaddy Email Marketing](#)®