

Celebrating the Priority of Prophetic Preaching In the African American Church of Christ



Deceased Ministers Information Index

“Remembering Those Who Walked Before Us”

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"The Priority of Prophetic Preaching"

There is something audacious, attractive, and assertive about the business of prophetic preaching. It may be old, but it is not outdated. It may be ancient, but it is not antiquated. Unfortunately, as sub-Saharan descendants of the *diaspora* and *mfecane*, we have very little documentation regarding our rich and noble heritage. As a result, in the oral tradition of our West African Mandinka forefathers, the role of the "*djeli*" or "preacher" becomes paramount to our religious and cultural experiences. Prophetic preaching has enabled people of African descent to survive the incorrigible Middle Passage, the injustice of antebellum, the inequities of Jim Crow, the illusion of Reconstruction, and the intolerance of *de facto* segregation.

By intonation, repetition, and pace, the prophetic dimension of preaching will challenge both the sacred and secular. It will expose to the saint that which is theologically essential and reveal to the sinner that which is divinely inspired. It not only confronts the status quo, but offers biblical insight regarding the human condition on how to overcome despair with determination and hope.

Preaching in its truest sense unabashedly proclaims the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Furthermore, it invites the hearer to become an active participant in the fellowship of the forgiven; otherwise known as the "Church." It is through the preaching of the Word, that the Church calls the world to be responsible towards God's divine act of reconciliation. It is for this reason Karl Barth has described the Church as being "God's subjective realization of the atonement."

However, let it be understood that the ethos, logos, and pathos of preaching is not found in the volume of voice nor the tenor and tone in which a message is delivered. While a preacher must speak as a "dying man to dying men," he dare not speak the things of God too easily. He must speak with all the humility that is appropriate to his limited vision, but he must speak. It should be incandescently clear that a time comes when silence is betrayal. There is an invisible "Book of Life" which faithfully records our vigilance or our neglect. God's hope for humanity is a serious and solemn transaction. Therefore, prophetic preaching is far too important to give anything less than reverence and respect when addressing the souls of men.

Finally, the preacher must allow others to scrutinize him as he experiences what F. Scott Fitzgerald calls "the dark night of the soul where it is always three o'clock in the morning." He is always cognizant of the fact that serious preaching will arouse serious conflicts. Contrary winds and discord with the demonic are descriptors which have no detours. Omar Khayyam was right when he said "The moving Finger writes and having writ moves on." But through it all, the preacher never fails to lift up the risen Redeemer in the "beauty of His holiness and in the holiness of His beauty." Perhaps Luke said it best in Acts 14:22 when he says: "...we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."

One must always remember that preaching produces peril and pain, healing and hurt, trials and triumphs, heartaches and hallelujahs. In the final analysis it should be clearly affirmed that He who calls us to this work where dust and divinity operate in creative tension, He promises us nothing except His abiding presence.

"Lest We Forget"

A

Abner, Alford - Miami, FL
Adams, A. J. - Houston, TX
Adams, Leroy - Orlando, FL
Adams, William - Oklahoma City, OK
Adamson, Norman - Nashville, AK
Aker, O. L. - Jasper, AL
Alexander, Eddie - Sarasota, FL
Alexander, L. H. - Midland, TX
Amos, W. C. - Indianapolis, IN
Anderson, E. W. - Houston, TX
Anderson, Lawrence - Chicago, IL
Anderson, O. L. - Seattle, WA
Andrews, Jesse - Jefferson, TX
Anthony, John - Toledo, OH
Ashurst, James - Birmingham, AL

B

Bacon, James B. - Riverside, TX
Baker, William - Louisville, KY
Bellanfant, Dee - Chicago, IL
Benford, David C. - Ft. Worth, TX
Biddings, Early B. - Bastrop, LA
Bishop, Jesse - Detroit, MI
Black, Homer - Inkster, MI
Bond, Robert - Memphis, TN
Bowdre, Alvartice, Sr. - Dallas, TX
Bowers, Calvin - Los Angeles, CA
Bowser, G. P. - Detroit, MI
Boatright, O. H. - Nashville, TN
Braddock, J. W. - Memphis, TN
Braden, Nathaniel - Memphis, TN
Bradley, Scott - Gilmore, TX
Broughton, Alexander - Fort Worth, TX
Brown, E. D. - Rochester, NY
Brown, Hubert - Dallas, TX
Bryant, Donald - Hartford CT
Bullock, Cecil - Hickman County TN
Bumley, Herbert - Forney, TX
Burson, Jesse - Knoxville, TN
Burson, S. T. - Knoxville, TN
Burton, Vencil - Fort Worth, TX
Busby, T. H. - Little Rock, AR
Butler, J. M. - San Francisco, CA
Butler, P. E. - Akron, OH
Byles, Luther - Tupelo, MS

C

Campbell, Alexander - Nashville, TN
Campbell, O. B. - Edgewood, TX
Caperton, C. L. - Chattanooga, TN
Carmen, Will - Chicago, IL
Carney, Andrew Sr. - Nashville, TN
Carvin, Rufus - Canton, OH
Carson, F. F. - Richmond, CA
Cassius, Amos L. - Los Angeles, CA
Cassius, Samuel R. - Denver, CO
Caruthers, Jefferson, Sr. - Rockford, IL
Carter, C. - Kannapolis, NC
Carter, Ernest - Crossett, AR
Carter, Quincy C. - Raleigh, NC
Cathey, Owens - Urbana, IL
Chappell, Melvin - Dallas, TX
Chatman, Charlie - Montgomery, AL
Christman, A. C. - Dallas, TX
Christmon, David - Cincinnati, OH
Clay, John Henry - Pasadena, CA

(Continued)

Clayton, Hamlet - Seattle, WA
Clemons, John C. - Los Angeles, CA
Coleman, George - Dyersburg, TN
Coleman, Robert - Dallas, TX
Colston, Acey J. - Racine, WI
Cook, Jesse - Wichita, KS
Cook, W. H. - Houston, TX
Cooper, James - Mobile, AL
Cosby, Earnest - TX
Cothran, James - Norcross, GA
Cowens, A. J. - Raleigh, NC
Crenshaw, A. C. - Oklahoma City, OK
Crooms, J. E. - Big Springs, TX
Crowe, Lee - Los Angeles, CA
Culbreath, John - Philadelphia, PA

D

Daniels, J. L. - Tampa, FL
Daniels, J. T. - Chicago, IL
Daniels, M. C. - Houston, TX
Davenport, Alex - Detroit, MI
Davidson, T. J. - Morrison, TN
Davis, Archie - Pine Bluff, AR
Davis, James - Chicago, IL
Davis, Jesse - Fort Worth, TX
Davis, John - Miami, FL
Davis, Maurice - Lakeland, FL
Davis, Samuel - Nashville, TN
Debara, George
Debow, Richard H. - Terre Haute, IN
Debow, George - Terre Haute, IN
Derrick, A. E. - Fresno, CA
Dethrow, Albert - Jackson, TN
Dicker, Wilson - Rochester, NY
Dillingham, Mack, Sr. - Montgomery, AL
Donley, Henry - Toledo, OH
Dowell, Calvin - Nashville, TN
Drew, Ed - Lebanon, TN
Dudley, S. J. - Valdosta, GA
Dulan, Andrew - Topeka, KS
Dulin, Reginald B. - Dallas, TX
Dunnam, A. V. - Houston, TX
Dunwood, Raymond J. - Hopewell, VA
Durley, LeRoy - Milwaukee, WI
Dyson, O. J. - Santa Monica, CA

E

Echols, Golden - Detroit, MI
Edwards, William - Chicago Heights, IL
Elder, Millard - Dallas, TX
Ellis, Tulsa - San Francisco, CA
English, Dennis M. - Memphis, TN
English, Dewitt - Louisville, KY
English, Paul D., Sr. - Harlem, NY
English, Paul D., Jr. - Denver, CO
English, William - Compton, CA
English, W. B. - Detroit, MI
Evans, Charles, Sr. - Milwaukee, WI
Evans, Charles, Jr. - Milwaukee, WI
Evans, N. L. - Texarkana, TX
Evans, William Jr. - Los Angeles, CA
Everett, Robert - Dallas, TX

F

Fisk, James - Milwaukee, WI
Fitzgerald, Thomas - Indianapolis, IN
Fitzhugh, A. W. - Memphis, TN
Flurry, I. M. - Fort Smith, AK
Foreman, John - Ardmore, OK
Foster, Ben, Jr. - Terrell, TX
Foulkes, Norris W. - Robbins, IL
Foutz, Humphrey - Baltimore, MD
Franklin, James - Houston, TX
Franklin, Leroy - Tucson, AZ
Fulson, Arthur - Rockford, IL

G

Gamble, V. - North Little Rock, AK
Gates, Collins - Giddings, TX
Gates, Samuel Louis - Nashville, TN
Geeter, Fred A. - Enterprise, AL
Ghant, Duel, Sr. - Maywood, IL
Ghant, James - Hickman County, TN
Gibbs, Shelton, Sr. - Dallas, TX
Gibbs, Shelton, Jr. - Fort Worth, TX
Glover, D. - Birmingham, AL
Godbolt, W. W. - Los Angeles, CA
Goodloe, Paul - Indianapolis, IN
Goodwin, I. L. - Montgomery, AL
Gray, Albert, Sr. - Nashville, TN
Gray, H. H. - Muskogee, OK
Green, J. W. - Savannah, GA
Green, Kenneth - Dallas, TX
Green, Robert - Lyons, TX
Green, William - Ada, OK
Greer, S. D. - Saint Louis, MO
Greer, U. S. - Jacksonville, FL
Grimsley, Columbus - Fort Lauderdale, FL
Guthrie, Horace - Nashville, TN
Guthrie, Lee - Birmingham, AL

H

Hall, Woodrow - Chicago, IL
Hamilton, Anderson - Chicago, IL
Hannon, Jesse - Corinth, MS
Hannon, Jesse - Saint Petersburg, FL
Hardison, L. C. - Chicago, IL
Hardison, Tom - Nashville, TN
Hardy, Lee - Nashville, TN
Harmon, Johnny - Saint Petersburg, FL
Harper, Cardie L. - Chicago, IL
Harper, T. L. - Terre Haute, IN
Harris, John - Huntsville, AL
Harrison, Matt - Atoka, OK
Henry, Harold - St. Louis, MO
Henry, J. P. - Cocoa, FL
Herndon, Cecil B. - Conroe, TX
Herring, Chester - Anderson, IN
Hervey, C. V. - Plummerville, AK
Hervey, Joseph - San Diego, CA
Hogan, R. N. - Los Angeles, CA
Holden, Fred - Chicago, IL

(Continued)

Holloway, Ben T. - Robbins, IL
Holmes, Alfred - Houston, TX
Holt, A. C. - Nashville, TN
Holt, Darrell D. - Los Angeles, CA
Holt, G. P., Sr. - Dallas, TX
Holt, Marion F. - Kansas City, MO
Holt, Marion V. - Kansas City, MO
Hooks, Dan - Montgomery, AL
Horn, Robert H. - Stamford, TX
Howard, Linnie - Savage, MS
Hozell, Florence - Miami, FL
Hughes, Jafas - Newark, NJ
Hughes, Harvey - Miami, FL
Hughes, Roy - Oklahoma City, OK
Humphreys, Fred - Chicago, IL
Hunt, Garner - Nashville, TN
Hunt, Wilson - Longview, TX
Hutton, Jules - Harvey, IL

I - J

Ivory, Robert - Birmingham, AL
Jackson, G. A. - Nashville, TN
Jackson, Herman, Sr. - Chicago, IL
Jackson, Roy A. - Dallas, TX
Jackson, Samuel - Jacksonville, FL
Jackson, Thomas O. - Tuskegee, AL
Jacob, R. E. - Fort Smith, AK
James, Jesse - Birmingham, AL
James, Robert L., Sr. - Little Rock, AK
Johnson, E. R. - Lake Park, GA
Johnson, G. A. - Cookeville, TN
Johnson, Howard U. - Newark, NJ
Johnson, Isaiah - Chicago, IL
Johnson, Jesse, Sr. - Indianapolis, IN
Johnson, Lovette - Dallas, TX
Johnson, Marshall - Bakersfield, CA
Johnson, Sutton - Lebanon, TN
Johnson, Wiley - Midway, TX
Johnson, Winter I. - Wichita, KS
Jones, Abraham - Mound Bayou, MS
Jones, Alonzo - Chattanooga, TN
Jones, G. G. - Chicago, IL
Jones, L. M. - Oklahoma City, OK
Jones, Rovergial - Tulsa, OK
Jones, Willie - Dallas, TX
Jordan, Samuel L. - Chicago, IL
Jordan, Sandy - Nashville, TN
Judkins, Sam - Chicago, IL

K

Keeble, Marshall - Nashville, TN
Kelly, Richard - Chattanooga, TN
Kennedy, James - Greenville, SC
Kennedy, Levi A., Sr. - Centerville, TN
Kennedy, Levi, Jr. - Chicago, IL
Kennedy, Lee Ghant - Centerville, TN
Kennedy, Melvin - Jersey City, NJ
Kirksey, Cortez - Selmer, TN
Kolb, John H. - Detroit, MI

L

Lane, Ernest - Memphis, TN
Lawrence, Johnnie - Little Rock, AK
Lee, Eugene - Hobbs, NM
Lee, Herman - Flint, MI
Lee, Horace, Sr. - Dallas, TX
Legg, Silas S., Jr. - Benton Harbor, MI
Leverett, John - Paducah, KY
Lewis, Lowell, Sr. - Quanah, TX
Lewis, Lowell, Jr. - Jackson, MS
Lewis, N. L. - Tulsa, OK

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Lewis, Vanderbilt - Los Angeles, CA
Livingston, F. A. - Seattle, WA
Locke, Cathey C. - Dallas, TX
Logan, Napoleon - Houston, TX
London, R. L. - Toledo, OH
Lovelace, Virgil - Cleveland, OH
Lowrey, John - Memphis, TN
Lymon, Fred T. - Robbins, IL
Lyons, A. J. - Muncie, IN

M

Mack, Lacie - Tulsa, OK
Martin, Booker T. - Gary, IN
Martin, L. J. - Miami, FL
Matthews, Bonnie - Corsicana, TX
Medlock, Leroy - Pontiac, MI
Melton, Leroy O., Sr. - Houston, TX
Melton, Samuel - Houston, TX
Merchant, T. H. - Bryan, TX
Merchant, T. H. - Marshall, TX
Merrit, M. C. - Miami, FL
Middleton, G. W. - Caldwell, TX
Miller, Jim - Kalamazoo, MI
Miller, Luke - Bradenton, FL
Mitchell, H. E., Jr. - Albuquerque, NM
Mitchell, Joe N. - Lawton, OK
Mitchell, Kelly K. - Montgomery, AL
Moore, Charles - Flint, MI
Moore, Charlie - Nashville, TN
Moore, Cottry - Detroit, MI
Moore, Matthew - Pompano Beach, FL
Moore, Ralph - Racine, WI
Moore, Roscoe M. - Saint Louis, MO
Moore, Russell H. - Wichita, KS
Morgan, C. C. - Frederick, OK
Morrison, L. B. - Muskogee, OK
Murphy, Henry O. - Gary, IN
Murray, Charles - Newark, NJ
Muse, Clyde - Oklahoma City, OK
Myles, Mark, Sr. - Chicago, IL

Mc

McAdoo, William - Cleveland, OH
McCall, James - Pontiac, MI
McClain, Clifford - Nashville, TN
McClinton, Jacob - Youngstown, OH
McClinton, Nathan - Chicago, IL
McCloud, Mack - Montgomery, AL
McCollum, E. B. - Glen Allen, AL
McCollum, Curtis - Perris, CA
McCoy, Delwood - Jacksonville, FL
McGilbra, Cullen - Kermit, TX
McGilbra, German - Dallas, TX
McGilbray, Will A. - Apple Valley, CA
McGill, J. Frank - Louisville, KY
McGowan, James - Rockford, IL
McGrue, Larry - Vallejo, CA
McGuire, Leroy A. - Vallejo, CA
McIntosh, Oneal - Memphis, TN
McIntyre, Sewell - Sellers, AK
McLemore, Roscoe - Chicago, IL
McMillan, Dan - Chicago, IL
McNeal, William - Harvey, IL

Mc - N

McGhee, Johnnie - Texarkana, TX
Nelson, Charlie - Clemmons, NC
Nichols, Lemmie - Chicago, IL
Nicks, James - Redbird, OK
Nixon, Kermit - Dallas, TX
Nixon, Macil - Greenfield, TX
Nunley, R. F. - Martin, TN

O

O'Bryant, Adgie - Greensboro, NC
Oldham, James - Columbia, TN
Owens, William Hubert - Memphis, TN

P

Pace, Jesse Solomon - Chicago, IL
Patterson, Alonso N. - San Antonio, TX
Payne, Clifford - Miami, FL
Pennington, J. W. - Coatsville, PA
Penny, Loan B. - Fort Smith, AK
Perkins, Arthur - Los Angeles, CA
Perkins, A. E. - Indianapolis, IN
Phillips, Anderson, Jr. - Birmingham, AL
Phillips, Bill - Nashville, TN
Phillips, E. D. - Nashville, TN
Pitts, Carroll, Jr. - Los Angeles, CA
Porter, I. H. - Stephens, AK
Porter, Jesse - Muskogee, OK
Powell, Leroy - Ada, OK
Price, Kenneth - Evanston, IL

R

Raince, Charles - Jefferson, TX
Ramsey, John T. - Chicago, IL
Rand, Charles - Jefferson, TX
Ravenell, Robert - Houston, TX
Redden, Anthony - Alton, IL
Redding, Ellis - Detroit, MI
Reed, Artie - Saint Louis, MO
Reese, James - Nashville, TN
Reeves, George - College Park, GA
Rice, F. L. - Valdosta, GA
Rice, O. L. - Clarendon, TX
Richardson - San Antonio, TX
Rickman, E. G. - Springfield, MO
Ricks, George - Tuscumbia, AL
Ricks, Percy - Tuscumbia, AL
Riley, Eugene - Sacramento, CA
Roach, J. E. - Greenville, MS
Roberson, William - Murfreesboro, TN
Robertson, Joe - Miami, FL
Robin, George - Muskogee, OK
Robinson, Jesse - Kilgore, TX

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Robinson, Roy - Dayton, OH
Rodgers, A. J. - Port Arthur, TX
Rodgers, Richard - Carson, CA
Rose, Alonzo Z. - Valdosta, GA
Rose, Jimmy - Inkster, MI
Roundtree, Elmo - Bradenton, FL
Rout, John H. - Gaffney, SC
Rowe, Gene - Texas City, TX
Rucks, Alfred - Lebannon, TX
Rucks, Thomas - Tuscumbia, AL
Russell, Peter - Nashville, TN
Rutledge, Louis - Memphis, TN

S

Sams, Roosevelt - San Antonio, TX
Sankey, David - Chicago, IL
Scates, W. N. - Camersville, TN
Scott, C. H. - Los Angeles, CA
Scott, Edgar - Houston, TX
Sellers, Henry - San Antonio, TX
Settles, Paul - Houston, TX
Shanks, David - Miami, FL
Shavers, Leon - Dallas, TX
Shields, Buford - Cleveland, OH
Shields, Ulysses - Corinth, MS
Shows, David - Indianapolis, IN
Silver, John - Saint Petersburg, FL
Simmons, H. B. - Birmingham, AL
Simmons, Robert - Saint Petersburg, FL
Simon, Joe - Denison, TX
Simonton, Warren - Los Angeles, CA
Smalling, Era - Nashville, TN
Smiley, Paul - Cleveland, OH
Smith, Bernard - Hallendale, FL
Smith, Charles L. - Chicago, IL
Smith, Leroy, Sr. - Chicago Heights, IL
Smith, Lonnie - Bryan, TX
Smith, Robert - Detroit, MI
Smith, William H., Jr. - Memphis, TN
Sowell, Elias, Jr. - Robbins, IL
Sowell, Frank - Maury County, TN
Speights, Dorsey - Los Angeles, CA
Steele, Jimmy - Huntsville, AL
Stephens, James D. - Chicago, IL
Stevens, Julius - Washington DC
Steward, G. E. - Fort Worth, TX
Stewart, James H. Jr. - Philadelphia, PA
Stocker, LaRue - Miami, FL
Strange, Bennie - Houston, TX
Strickland, Robert - Chattanooga, TN
Strong, D. C. - Indianapolis, IN
Stroud, D. A. - Houston, TX

T

Tarver, Freeman - Miami, FL
Taylor, Carl - Chattanooga, TN
Taylor, Richard D. - Nashville, TN
Thomas, A. A. - Odessa, TX
Thomas, Charles - Austin, TX
Thomas, Chilton - Lubbock, TX
Thomas, J. H. - Midway, TX
Thomas, Phillip - Brooklyn, NY

(Continued)

Thompson, B. B. - Columbus, OH
Thompson, F. L. - Miami, FL
Thompson, James E. - Mt. Clemens, MI
Thompson, James H. - Memphis, TN
Thompson, Joel - Tyler, TX
Thompson, Oliver - Nashville, TN
Thornton, Hoover - Nashville, TN
Thurmond, R. B. - Kilgore, TX
Toney, Charles - Little Rock, AK
Towles, Mayo - Decatur, IL
Trone, O. L., Sr. - Detroit, MI
Trone, O. L., Jr. - Tampa, FL
Trotter, Burl - Fort Worth, TX
Tucker, Albert - Louisville, KY
Tucker, B. L. - Valdosta, GA
Tucker, Tom - Jackson, TN
Tucker, William - Kansas City, MO
Turner, E. L. - Wabbaseka, AK
Turner, Harold - Jackson, MI
Turner, Ulysses - Houston, TX
Tyner, H. C. - Cleburne, TX
Tyson, Louis - Chicago, IL

U

Underwood, Charles, Sr. - Chicago, IL

V

Vance, Walter - Jackson, TN
Vanleer, Andrew - Nashville, TN
Vaughner, J. R. - Saint Petersburg, FL
Vinson, Bennie - Nashville, TN
Vinson, I. S. - Tulsa, OK

W

Walker, P. E. - Cleveland, OH
Walker, W. L. - Pampa, TX
Waller, Charles - Center, TX
Washington, Grover C. - Dallas, TX
Waterhouse, Jeff - Houston, TX
Watts, Frank A. - Nashville, TN
Webb, Charles R. - Seattle, WA
Webb, Issac - Lawton, OK
Webster, C. W. - Haynesville, LA
Whitaker, William - Tampa, FL
Wiggins, Robert - Pontiac, MI
Williams, Arthur - Detroit, MI
Williams, H. D. - Denison, TX
Williams, James - Iowa City, IA
Williams, John Oscar - Milwaukee, WI
Williams, Lasalle - Los Angeles, CA
Williams, Warren - Little Rock, AK
Wilson, Albert - Smithland, TX
Wilson, E. R. - Statesville, NC
Wilson, John H. - Kilin, MS
Winston, John Steve, Sr. - Dallas, TX
Winston, Roy - Oklahoma City, OK
Womack, Sam W. - Nashville, TN
Woods, Robert M. - Villa Rica, GA
Worde, R. L. - Mercedes, CA
Wright, Elcue - East Saint Louis, IL
Wright, Issac - Blaine, MS
Wright, John H. - Kenosha, WI

Y

Yarbor, R. H. - Tupelo, MS
Yeldell, Nokomis, Sr. - Memphis, TN
York, G. W. - Lovelady, TX
York, T. H. - Detroit, MI
Young, Abe - Hallsville, TX

Needless to say, there are many great preachers of the African American Church of Christ whose names are absent from this limited index.

We have attempted to be as unambiguous as possible, identifying the names of those mentioned in previous listings and those of whom our current research have produced.

Apologies are given if someone you know has been omitted from this list.

If you would desire to submit additional names to this index listing, please refer to the Executive Committee of the Churches of Christ National Lectureship.

Let it also be understood that this is not a "Who's Who" of deceased gospel preachers. It is only an attempt to mention the names of those who have passed on from this earthly life.

Without doubt and as time progresses, this compilation will become more exhaustive. However, it is our hope that future generations will remember the sacrifices of those who preceded them, so that the visible kingdom of God might continue to prosper.

We pray that the young men of today, who decide to dedicate their lives to the prophetic proclamation of the gospel of Christ, will do so because they love the Lord, they love the Church, and they love God's people.

*"The harvest truly is plenteous,
but the labourers are few..."*

Matthew 9:37

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

II Timothy 4:1, 2

