

Confidence in Our Message
2 Timothy 3:12-4:5

Introduction

In our last lesson, we considered the need to restore our confidence. In Paul's second letter to Timothy this is what he was concerned about. Timothy was going through a crisis. He needed a boost in his confidence. So, Paul reminded him of his heritage; that there was no reason to cower in the face of opposition; not to be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord; and that the gospel holds all the answers for this life and ever after.

In this lesson, we will notice Paul's insistence on the confidence of the message, the testimony of the Lord.

I. Notice Paul's frequent references to the message.

1:13	2:2	2:15	2:24
3:10	3:14-17	4:2-4	4:17

II. Our message cannot be chained or held captive. – 2:8-9

- A. Think about this. The gospel cannot be chained or held captive any more than death could hold Jesus in the tomb.
- B. The message we have has these three points of power: -Romans 1:3-4
 - 1. Jesus is the Son of David according to the flesh. He is fully human.
 - 2. He is declared to be Son of God, meaning He is fully God.
 - 3. He was dead, but is alive again according the Spirit of holiness, which proves both his deity and humanity.

III. Our message is based in the historical event of the resurrection of Christ.

- A. Human logic cannot explain it.
- B. Human wisdom wants to reject it.
- C. The church must never stop preaching it.
 - 1. What if people will not listen? Keep speaking. – Isaiah 6:11-12, Jeremiah 7:27
 - 2. We do not measure our success by numbers, but by faithfulness. – 3:13-14

IV. Our message is inspired from God. – 3:16

A. These words are “breathed out by God.”

1. God breathed into the nostrils of Adam and he became a living creature. – Genesis 2:7.
2. God breathed life into the words he spoke so that these words become life-giving. – Matthew 4:4.

B. Every other so-called holy book in the world claims to be inspired (the Quran for example), but the Bible is the only book that can prove it is inspired.

1. Hundreds of prophecies have been fulfilled down to the detail.
2. The greatest proof is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This historical event proves two major propositions:
 - a. The deity of Jesus was proven.
 - b. The Bible is the inspired word of God.

C. If the implications of the resurrection are down-played, removed, or ignored, then our foundation becomes eroded and baseless.

IV. Our message is never old or outdated. – 4:1-5

A. Most everything we read at some point becomes outdated, but not God’s word.

1. Paul is saying, “Be persistent.”
2. Speak the word when the time is favorable and when it isn’t.
3. This does not suggest to be rude or obnoxious, but with patience, correct. Rebuke with kindness and love. Exhort with grace.

B. The Bible was not inspired to address only one generation, but all generations.

Conclusion

We have every reason to be confident in the message of the Bible that is summed up in the gospel of Christ. The world will always change, but we cannot follow the world. The world will demand that we stop speaking, but we cannot stop. We have the unchained gospel, as reliable as Christ’s resurrection, inspired with life, and relevant for all generations.

Preach the word!

Have confidence in our message.