

Study 4

Read 2 Timothy Chapter 4

2 Timothy 4 Conviction to Preach the Truth

• The one final command Paul gives church leaders is: **PREACH THE WORD!** Preaching prepares men to face God and God uses preaching to change lives for time and eternity. When the “Ear Ticklers Society” (vs. 3) wants us to water down the truth to make it appealing to the flesh, there is only one answer: vs. 5 - keep preaching the Word.

1. Verse 1 Why does Paul solemnly charge Timothy to preach the Word?
2. Verse 2 What is involved in the successful preaching of God's Word?
3. Verse 3 What will people not endure or put up with in time to come? What will they want instead?
4. Verse 4 From what will people turn their ears, and to what will they turn aside? Can you identify any of these in our day?
5. Verse 5 What four things does Paul urge Timothy to do as a preacher of the gospel?
6. Verses 6-7 What does Paul know is coming soon? How does he describe his life?
7. Verse 8 What is Paul looking forward to? What other kind of people will experience this?
8. Verses 9-11 Why does Paul urge Timothy to come to him as soon as possible?

9. Verse 12 Whom should Timothy bring along? What is significant about this?

10. Verse 13 What else would Paul like Timothy to bring with him?

11. Verses 14-15 What was the problem with Alexander the Coppersmith?

12. Verses 16-17 What happened at Paul's first defense?

13. Verse 17 What was Paul's biggest concern at his hearing?

14. Verses 17-18 How did Paul see God in his trial in the midst of his defense?

15. Verses 19-22 Why did Paul want Timothy to come before winter?

THINK ABOUT IT:

Paul's discipling relationship with Timothy was life on life, pouring his life into Timothy. Using the back of this handout, list two or three key discipling principles or practices from each chapter that Paul imparted to Timothy.

Summing Up ...

“There are gifted orators who can sway an audience with the power of their persuasive rhetoric. There are men who are erudite, knowledgeable, well-trained, and worldly-wise, who can cause other men to change their minds about certain matters. There are men who can relate moving stories that tug at a hearer's heart and move him emotionally.

Throughout the history of the church, including our own time, God has chosen to endow some ministers with such abilities. But God also has chosen not to bless every faithful preacher in those particular ways. Nevertheless, He charges them with the same task of preaching His Word, because the spiritual power and effectiveness of preaching does not rest in the skill of the speaker but in the truth.”

“In 1904, William Borden, a member of the Borden dairy family, finished high school in Chicago and was given a world cruise as a graduation present. Particularly while traveling through the Near East and Far East, he became heavily burdened for the lost. After returning home, he spent seven years at Princeton University, the first four in undergraduate work and the last three in seminary. While in school, he penned these words in the back of his Bible: ‘No reserves.’ Although his family pleaded with him to take control of the business, which was foundering, he insisted that God’s call to the mission field had priority. After disposing of his wealth, he added, ‘No retreat’ after ‘No reserves.’ On his way to China to witness to the Muslims there, he contracted cerebral meningitis in Egypt and died within a month. After his death, someone looking through his Bible discovered these final words: ‘No regrets.’ He knew that the Lord does not require success, only faithfulness.”—John MacArthur