



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

OUR SOLEMN CHARGE...PREACH THE WORD! - 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-2A

COLORADO

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Dan File, P.O. Box 1088, Lake City, CO 81235-1088/303-345-8830 / filefamily@centurytel.net

Paul dispenses this final, solemn charge to Timothy...preach the Word! This divine mandate is given for all believers in Jesus Christ no matter what their position might be in life. Just as Paul reminds Timothy that ministry is carried out under the very eye of God Himself, so too we must remember this truth. Every believer will give an account to God for what has been done with their time. Therefore, we must take our calling very seriously. It's not about pleasing people but pleasing Christ. These are Paul's last written words to Timothy and he seeks to encourage and challenge Timothy to be faithful to the trust he has been given by God. Even though Paul was about to be executed for his faith, he didn't want Timothy derailed from the ministry God had given him to fulfill. And he wanted Timothy to remain strong and courageous in the face of persecution and hardship to preach the word!

I. OUR SOLEMN CHARGE: PREACH THE WORD! - 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-2A

(1) "I solemnly 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: (2a) preach the word..." 2 Timothy 4:1-2a

Paul is writing within weeks, perhaps even days of his martyrdom. Truly he has fought the good fight, finished his course and kept the faith after more than 30 years of serving Jesus Christ. (2 Timothy 4:7-8) The words he wrote over 2000 years ago are Paul's legacy to the church today and to you and I.¹ May we be profoundly stirred to our most noble task...*preach the Word!*

In light of the reality that Jesus Christ will return and set up His kingdom, our work must be such that it stands the judgment of Christ. Our lives must be such that we welcome the appearance of the King. Our service must be such that it will demonstrate the reality of our citizenship of the kingdom of God.² And may these realities charge our soul as it must have Timothy's even in the darkest of times, because Jesus Christ is present with us and His appearing and kingdom are coming. It is with these realities in mind, Paul presses Timothy to his task, and ours, "*preach the word*".

This is our solemn charge to which we have the privilege and responsibility to fulfill. May you and I be pressed to this mission with the heart of faithfulness and commitment to excellence! In light of these truths, Paul issues five imperatives that clearly carry a sense of urgency; placing first as the call to preach the Word. This is the signature of all Christian ministry. Timothy must waste no time. He must preach God's Word, the gospel of Jesus Christ. This stands first at the very heart and center of his work... and ours. So what does it mean to preach?

A. "PREACH" - 2 TIMOTHY 4:2A

Paul's word here resounds with passion regarding this most solemn obligation for which he is about to give his life. This is a mandate, a divine call, a charge to preach the gospel. It is with love for Christ and His gospel that Paul lays upon Timothy the charge to preach the Word (2 Timothy 1:1-4) and fulfill his ministry (2 Timothy 4:5-8).

"*preach*" Greek "*kerusso*" means to herald, to proclaim publicly. The verb here is the picture of a herald making a public proclamation as ordered by another. The herald, acting as the Imperial messenger, would go throughout the streets and announce special events such as the appearing of an Emperor, or new laws, policies or actions. The herald would never on his life consider altering the message given to him by the Emperor or changing it in any form. The message was his to give as given to him without exception.

This word would have brought to Timothy's mind the picture of an Imperial Herald, the spokesman of an Emperor, proclaiming in a formal and authoritative manner which must be listened to by all the people. The herald would speak only the message which the Emperor gave him to announce. He would go throughout the streets and publicly announce whatever message he was given.

This gives the picture of the King of Heaven Who has committed His message to His messengers, His heralds, His ambassadors and it is their duty to faithfully and with proper dignity, proclaim that message to all without alteration or falsification. It is to be publicly proclaimed in its completeness without alteration, addition or subtraction.³

Do not miss the fact that every believer in Jesus Christ is the herald of the King of Kings announcing His message to the world. If you have received Christ as your Savior and Lord, you are a herald for the King. The imperative here in 2 Timothy 4:2 is for you. We have the holy responsibility and unspeakable privilege of heralding God's timeless truth to all who come across our path.⁴

Romans 10:14 reinforces the urgent task and role of God's herald, "*How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?*" How can one be saved if they have not heard? And how can they hear without a herald? We are called to proclaim before the public, make known publicly and officially a matter of the highest eternal significance; the message of God to all people.

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

Colorado

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"I solemnly 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..." 2 Timothy 4:1-2a

B. "PREACH THE WORD"- 2 TIMOTHY 4:2A

And what is the message? What was Timothy to proclaim publicly to a lost and dying world? What is our solemn charge and what are we to herald? It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see the answer to that here in 2 Timothy 4. There is no confusion. We cannot miss or neglect the clear and obvious. We are called to herald, to preach publicly the Word of God. We have no liberty to invent our own message, rather to communicate God's message, the Word. Timothy was to speak what God has spoken.

Preaching is not merely a speech or address on a religious topic nor is it man's thoughts about God's Word. No. It is God's Word to man. It is not ones ideas and opinions on the human condition and world's affairs but rather heralding God's message is to expound Scripture, His message. It is 2 Corinthians 2:2, a Christ centered, cross oriented preaching.⁵

Like Paul we are to preach the whole counsel of God as he wrote in Acts 20:27, *"For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God."* The Lord's herald must proclaim all of Scripture; not philosophizing, not choosing some of the message and ignoring the rest. God's herald must proclaim the message in its entirety just as Christ the King has issued it. Let the Word do the work. It is the Word of God that is to be preached. This is so obvious yet so easily forgotten. Instead we hear stories, talk about feelings or experiences, opinions or we talk about our self. We don't preach, herald the Word. That was Paul's mandate to Timothy and to us...*preach the Word*. It's an urgent message...a message of life and death...with serious consequences and eternal determinations.⁶

What do we preach? Colossians 1:25-29 concisely states what we herald. *"We proclaim Him..."* 2 Corinthians 4:5 says, *"For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord..."* Preaching the Word, God's Word, carries ultimate authority. It is the complete and perfect self-revelation of God Himself and of His divine will for mankind whom He has created in His image. It is the Word that transforms the heart by the Holy Spirit at work convicting, convincing and revealing the truth. It is only His Word that the Lord calls us to preach, herald and publicly proclaim that moves the hearts and lives of the hearers.⁷

And remember what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:16. *"...for I am under compulsion, for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel."* Paul was under a compelling force to proclaim Jesus Christ. It was his life. Christ was his love. Is that our passion in life regardless of our station in life?

We must have a resolve to action, resolute to preach the Word as never before. There is a sense of urgency as Paul writes. Let the

herald of the gospel discharge his ministry to the fullest bringing God's message of good tidings faithfully and fully!

Paul is reminding Timothy of his solemn duties as the Lord's herald to proclaim the Word of God. Keep in mind that there was resistance in the church along with growing hostility from the Roman government. Unbelieving Jews were pressing in on Timothy. And then Paul himself was in prison for heralding this message and his execution was imminent. Maybe Timothy is fearful or feeling inadequate. I mean think about it, salvation through Jesus Christ crucified on a cross seemed like foolishness to the many. And yet Timothy was to herald, proclaim publicly the gospel of Jesus Christ; a salvation needed by all and given by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. The message hasn't changed to this day. Every believer is to be a herald, preaching the Word to all God brings across our path. It's always been this way.

This charge to continue learning, trusting and believing the Christ centered, God breathed, totally sufficient Scripture is followed with the charge to proclaim this life changing message of God; the gospel.⁸

We have heard the good news of the gospel because of people like Timothy and Paul who were faithful to their mission. Half of the people who have ever lived are alive today... most of whom do not know Christ... preaching the Word is the most important responsibility we have been given. Be prepared for, courageous in and sensitive to God given opportunities to tell the good news and preach the Word... God's message!⁹

This was Timothy's mandate and this is our solemn charge!

¹Stott, John R.W., *The Message of 2 Timothy; Guard the Gospel*. Inter-Varsity Press: Downers Grove, Illinois, 1973. Pg. 105.

²Barclay, William, *The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 1956, revised 1975 and 2003. Pg.229.

³Hiebert, D. Edmond, *Second Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1958. Pg. 104-105

⁴Platte, David; Akin, Daniel L.; Merida, Tony, *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus*. B&H Publishing Group: Nashville, Tennessee, 2013. Pg.203.

⁵Williams, Peter, *Opening Up 2 Timothy*. One Day Publications: Ryelands Road, Leominster, New Zealand, 2007. Pg. 91.

⁶Hughes, R. Kent and Chapell, Bryan, *1 and 2 Timothy and Titus; To Guard the Deposit*. Crossway Books: Wheaton, Illinois, 2000. Pg. 245.

⁷MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.175.

⁸Platte, David; Akin, Daniel L.; Merida, Tony, *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus*. B&H Publishing Group: Nashville, Tennessee, 2013. Pg.202.

⁹Barton, Bruce B., Veerman, David R., Wilson, Neil, *1Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus*. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.: Wheaton, Illinois, 1993, Pg. 220.