**2Ti 4:1 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;**

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

**3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;**

**4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

**5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.**

**An Alarming Charge to Preach and live the Gospel**

1. **Paul’s charge to Timothy**

**2Ti 4:1 I charge thee: to attest or protest earnestly, testify witness.**

1. **Paul Charged Timothy to Preach the Word**
2. **Before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ,** 
   1. **Who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom**
   2. **Who shall Judge**
   3. **Who shall Direct**
      1. **Directing**
      2. **“I will direct their work in truth”**

**Isa 61:8 For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.**

**Direct: make--add, apply, appoint, ascribe, assign, avenge, heal**

**Ge 9:12 And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:**

**Zec 3:7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.**

**Preach: distinguish, decide to try, condemn, punish:--avenge, conclude, decree, determine, esteem, judge, go to (sue at the) law, ordain, call in question, sentence to, think. Preach the word**

**To herald (as a public crier), especially divine truth (the gospel):--preacher(-er), proclaim, publish.**

1. **The Alarming Charge to Preach the Word and to Minister**

**The world is bombarded with message after message offering hope after hope, blessing after blessing. But above all the messages and above all the hopes that bombard the world, there is one that is more needed by man than all the others—one that is so important that it supersedes all the others combined.**

**What is that message? It is the message of the Word of God.**

**The Word of God offers the *only true* hope for man.**

**For this reason the Word of God must be preached.**

**The minister of God must commit himself to the alarming charge to preach the Word of God and to minister as never before.**

**Preach the Word—for the eye of God and of Christ watches you (v.1).**

**Preach the Word—for the Word of God directs you**

**Preach the Word—the Word of God is to be preached (v.2).**

**Preach the Word—for the great apostasy is coming (v.3-4).**

**Preach the Word—for you must completely fulfill your ministry.**

1. **Preach the Word—for the eye of God and of Christ watches you** 
   1. **Charged before God and the Lord Jesus Christ**
   2. **He is Judge in Holiness, but director in the Word of His Grace**

**2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

**17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.**

**Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.**

**Ac 14:3 Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.**

**Ac 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.**

1. **Preach the Word—for the Word of God directs you, perfects you.**
2. **Preach the Word—the Word of God is to be preached (v.2).**
3. **Preach the Word—for the great apostasy is coming (here)(v.3-4).**
4. **Preach the Word—for you must completely fulfill your ministry.**

**Therefore, "I charge you...preach the word" 2 Tim. 4:1-2. You must preach the Word, for God and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ are watching. Their eyes are upon you. They are watching to see if you preach the Word.**

**The minister is not to be preaching his own ideas nor the ideas of other men. The message of the gospel is not the message of human philosophy, psychology, sociology, or education. It is not the message of self-image and personal development in worldly affairs.**

**The message is the very Word of God, the glorious gospel of our salvation. The Word is the Scripture which we hold in our hands and study and teach to all who give their lives to Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**The Word that we are to preach is the very revelation of God Himself, the record of what God wants us to know, the record that is recorded in the Holy Scriptures, the Holy Bible**

**2Ti 1:2 To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**2Ti 1:1 ¶ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,**

**2Ti 3:1 ¶ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.**

**15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.**

* **The love of God**
* **The mercy of God that He has poured out upon us through the death of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ**

**Eph 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,**

* **The wrath of God**
* **The Judgment of God**
* **The charge of God**
  + **coming resurrection and judgment of all men**

**We are to preach the Word, proclaim it boldly and courageously. No matter the trials or threats of men, preach the Word of our living God.**

**Three strong reasons to make sure that we preach the Word of God.**

**1.  The Lord Jesus Christ shall judge the living and the dead. If we are living when He returns, He is going to judge us. If we die before He returns, He is going to judge us. The idea is twofold.**

**a. He will judge, have we preached the Word.**

**b. He will judge, have we lived the Word.**

**1Co 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**

**He has called every believer to preach the gospel to every creature.**

**If we do not preach, we shall be judged and condemned.**

**Our work will be tested, and that test will be carried out by Jesus.**

**A Christian's work must be good enough, to satisfy Jesus. Do every task so that it can be offered to Christ.**

**We must not be concerned with criticism or the verdict of men. The one thing we desire is the One accord relationship with the Lord, 'Well done!' of Jesus Christ. If we all within the Church did our work in that spirit, the difference in life would be incalculable.**

**Saves us from pride-touchy spirit- offended by the criticisms of men.**

**Saves us from the self-important spirit which is concerned with matters of personal rights and personal prestige.**

**Saves us from self-centered spirit which demands thanks and praise**

**Saves us from being hurt by the ingratitude and ignorance of men.**

**Mt 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

**19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

**27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.**

**Ac 10:42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.**

**Ac 17:31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.**

**Ro 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.**

**2Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.**

**2. Preaching the Word—this is the Lord's call to you that would hear Him. Preaching the Word with the true motive to win the lost is to be the consuming passion of the believer's life.**

**Preach the Word.**

**Be instant in season, out of season: keep a sense of urgency; grasp the opportunities and make opportunities to preach.**

**"Reprove."**

**"Rebuke."**

**"Exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."**

1. **Preach the Word. With a thrust, a passion—the minister is to be gripped with preaching. Preaching is to burn within your soul; be consumed with preaching—a burning passion to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ.**
2. **Why?**
   1. **Preaching is God's chosen method to save men.**

**1Co 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.**

* 1. **The minister is held accountable to preach.**

**1Co 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!**

**It is impossible to overemphasize preaching. It is impossible to fully grasp the importance of preaching.**

**God His Son The Lord Jesus Christ have their eyes on the minister—to see if he is preaching the Word. The minister shall be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ, Did he preach the Word?**

**The minister shall face Christ when Christ returns in glory as the conquering Lord—face Him and give an account of our preaching.**

**The overcomer's position in the Lord's kingdom will be determined by how faithful he is in obeying the preaching of the Word.**

**Therefore, the charge is to preach the Word that we obey the Word.**

**Two very significant points.**

**a.  The word "preach" (*kērussō*) The minister standing before people in all the dignity and authority of God Himself. It is the word that was used of the ambassador who was sent forth by the king to proclaim his message in all of the authority and dignity of the king himself.**

**2Co 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.**

* 1. **The minister is to preach "*the Word*." What is meant by "*the Word*"?**

**2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

**Ac 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.**

**Mt 10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

**8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.**

**27 What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.**

***Mr 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.***

**2.  Second, be instant in season, out of season.**

**a.  "instant" (*epistēthi*) "take a stand, stand upon it or up to it, carry on, stick to it**

**The task of the minister is to stand, stick to preaching no matter the circumstances, easy or difficult.**

**b.  The preacher is to proclaim the Word when the time is favorable, and when the circumstances seem unfavorable.**

**There is no closed season for preaching**

***Do this work with all fervency of spirit. Call upon those under [your] charge to take heed of sin, to do their duty: call upon them to repent, and believe, and live a holy life.***

***We must do it in season, no opportunity slip; and do it out of season, that is, no shift off duty, out of season in the sence that they don’t expect it or accept it.***

***be urgent. The message (a matter of life and death). The preacher who really gets the message across to people are those who have the earnestness in their heart not their voice....***

***be persistent. Urge the claims of Christ in season/out of season.***

***The Christian must count every time an opportunity to speak for Christ.***

**The Amplified New Testament says:**

**2** Herald *and* preach the Word! Keep your sense of urgency [stand by, be at hand and ready], whether the opportunity seems to be favorable or unfavorable. [Whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether it is welcome or unwelcome, you as preacher of the Word are to show people in what way their lives are wrong.] And convince them, rebuking *and* correcting, warning *and* urging *and* encouraging them, being unflagging *and* inexhaustible in patience and teaching.

**3.  Third, reprove (*elegxon*). Stir a person to prove himself; to put a person under conviction; to lead a person to see his sin and to feel guilt over it. Put a person under conviction of sin, lead him to confession and repentance.**

**4.  Fourth, rebuke (*epitimeson*). a very strong word, sharp, severe rebuke with impending penalty. The preacher has experienced failure after failure in bringing sinners/saints to forsake their sin**

***A word of warning and rebuke would often save a brother from sin and shipwreck. 'brother setting brother right.' It must be spoken with a consciousness of our common guilt. It is not our place to set ourselves up as the moral judge of anyone; nonetheless it is our duty to speak that warning word when it needs to be spoken"***

***Convince good living moral people of their sin.***

***Convince wicked people of the evil and danger of their wicked courses. Endeavour, by dealing plainly with them, to bring them to repentance. Rebuke them with gravity and authority , in Christ's name, that they may take [your] displeasure against them as an indication of God's displeasure"***

**1Ti 5:20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.**

**Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.**

**Tit 2:15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.**

**Eze 3:17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. 20 Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. 21 Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.**

**5.  Fifth, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. The word "exhort" (*parakaleō*) "please, I beg of you, I urge you. Beseech, encourage, comfort, and help. It is not enough to reprove and rebuke people. The minister must encourage and comfort, help and carry the person to Christ.**

**a.  The minister must "exhort with all longsuffering" (*pasē makrothumia*). The minister patiently endures in exhorting people—no matter the circumstances. He exhorts and exhorts, encourages and encourages. He suffers a long, a long time with people... He suffers a long side of people.**

**•  enduring whatever weaknesses and failings they have.**

**•  enduring whatever evil and injury is done.**

**The minister suffers a long, long time without resentment or anger, and he never gives up, for he knows the power of Christ to change lives.**

**b.  The minister "exhorts with all doctrine." He does not teach bits and pieces of God's Word. One sided, all blessing/prosperity/sin**

**He focuses upon all the doctrines of God—the whole counsel of God. He exhorts people in all the doctrine of God.**

**1Co 9:22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.**

**3. (4:3-4) Preach the Word—for the great apostasy is coming (here).**

**2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

**Paul wrote these words because false teaching had already creeped into the church, and the future was not bright. This is a prophecy of Scripture; Paul was prophesying that the false teaching was to spread. The day was coming when apostasy was to sweep throughout the church. The idea is that the apostasy would be great—many would follow after the false teaching and the whole church would be affected.**

**We know this is exactly what happened to the churches in Asia. There were seven churches, and out of the seven only one remained faithful to the preaching of the Word—the Philadelphian church (Rev. 3:7-13). The other six became apostate; many of the people turned away from the pure preaching and teaching of God's Word.**

**Why?**

**What caused the apostasy?**

**What caused so many people and churches to turn away from Christ and from the pure Word of God?**

**2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;**

**4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

**The apostasy came out of their own lusts.**

**Two clear reasons are given why people turn away from Christ and why churches turn away from the preaching of the pure Word of God.**

1. **People will not endure sound doctrine.** 
   1. **By doctrine, teaching, and instructions of God's Word, the Holy Scriptures.**
   2. **"sound" (*hugiainō*). It means wholesome and healthy doctrine and teaching. The only doctrine and teaching that is sound is that of God's Word.**

**People turn away from sound doctrine because they do not want to hear the truth. What truth? In all honesty, the truth that no flesh enjoys hearing.**

**We do not enjoy hearing that we are sinful and depraved of His Glory, dirty and unclean, selfish and immoral, unjust and unworthy, ever failing and always coming up short. No person enjoys hearing this, no matter who he is. Yet the message is true, and a person is foolish not to be honest and acknowledge it.**

**Why?**

**Because the sin and depravity of our hearts is the very reason we live in such an evil world. Being honest about the fact is the only way the problem of evil and death can ever be solved.**

**It is not enjoyable to confess that we have sinned and hopelessly depraved without complete repentance.**

**We do not enjoy hearing that we can do nothing selfishly to become acceptable to God. This idea just does not make sense to most people, for there are some so called good people in the world that believe to do good to be acceptable to God. Think about it: no matter who the person is—no matter how good and moral he is—no matter how much good he does, he is not acceptable and cannot make himself acceptable to God. This is not a pleasant thought, not to any person. Therefore, men do not want to hear such doctrine preached.**

**⇒  Most people do not like hearing that Jesus Christ is the *only Savior*, the *only Mediator*, the *only way* a person can be saved and acceptable to God.**

**The teaching of Scripture is clear. People turn away from sound doctrine for a very simple reason: they do not want to hear the truth. They either do not agree with it, or else they do not want to be reminded or to think about it.**

**John 7:16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.**

**He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God" (John 8:47).**

**He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).**

**Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Romans 16:17).**

**That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" (Ephes. 4:14).**

**As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do" (1 Tim. 1:3-4).**

**Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9).**

**2.  People will want teachers who will allow them to live like they desire. The Greek actually says that people will be *dominated* "by their own lusts" (*epithumia*). They will be living lives of lusts, cravings, and gratifications—lives that seek the gratification of the flesh**

**Such lusts and cravings will so dominate people's lives that they will seek ministers and teachers who will tickle their ears with the message of personal development and self-image in the lusts.**

**The messages of personal development and self-image, of philosophy and psychology, of religion and good works are messages that do not solve the problems of evil and selfishness within the human heart.**

**Delivered from evil and death and given eternal life in a new heavens and earth—it has to come from God Himself. This is the message, the glorious gospel of God's Word: there is salvation through His love—His love that has been demonstrated in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**They want the right to live like they want and to do their own thing. They want the right to be comfortable, at ease, recognized, honored, esteemed, and to secure position, authority, wealth, and power. They want pleasure/gratification of their lusts when they want them.**

**They want teachers who will tickle their ears and assure them...**

**•  that the building up of their discipline, image, and personal development is good and acceptable and God honored and acknowledged.**

**•  that immorality and carnality is understandable, mistakes**

**The only way a person can be truly saved, is by surrendering his life to the whole truth of God's Word. false teaching is nothing more than fables. The Amplified New Testament says that people "will turn aside from hearing the truth and wander off into myths and man-made fictions."**

**True ministers of the gospel must preach the Word, for a great turning away is happening. God's ministers must preach now while there is still time—preach with all the fervency and power of God's indwelling Spirit.**

**4. (4:5) Preaching— Ministers: preach the Word—for you must complete and fulfill your minsitry—you must "fill your ministry to the brim"**

**•  not every minister completes his ministry.**

**•  not every minister fills his ministry to the brim.**

**•  not every minister does everything Christ wants Him to do.**

**•  not every minister undertakes every ministry that God desires for him.**

**•  not every minister fills every ministry he undertakes to the brim.**

**Some do; we can look around and see some ministers who serve ever so faithfully. Some are not as gifted as others, and they serve in what men call small ministries, but they serve faithfully and well. How can we all become faithful and fulfill our ministries? How can we fill our ministries to the brim? Paul told Timothy that he had to do four things to complete his ministry.**

**1.  The minister must watch in all things. The word "watch" (*nēphe*) means to be sober, calm, and alert; maintain a controlled and disciplined life and spirit. The minister is to be this way in all things: in body, mind, and spirit—in thought, word and behavior. The minister is to always watch—always be alert, calm, controlled, and disciplined—no matter the activity or behavior.**

**2.  The minister is to "endure afflictions" (*kakopatheō*). The word means to suffer hardships, troubles, problems, difficulties, and evils.**

***The verb [endure afflictions] a sharp command given with military snap and shortness. Timothy needed just that. He was not cast in a heroic mold. How we in the ministry of the Word need that injunction today. What 'softies' we sometimes are, afraid to come out clearly in our proclamation of the truth and our stand as to false doctrine, fearing our fellows, the displeasure of our superiors, or the cutting off of our immediate financial income. I would rather walk a lonely road with Jesus than be without His fellowship in the crowd, wouldn't you? I would rather live in a cottage and eat simple food, and have Him as Head of my house and the Unseen Guest at every meal, than to live in royal style in a mansion without Him***

**3.  The minister is to do the work of an evangelist. This does not mean that the minister is to become a travelling or professional evangelist. It means that his work is to be evangelistic—he is to seek to win souls in all that he does. He is to share the love and judgment of God in all of his preaching and teaching and in everything else he does. The very thrust of his ministry is to be that of reconciling people to God, that of sharing the glorious news of God's love and of coming judgment: that God saves and shall judge people through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. 4:20For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard**

**2 Cor. 4:13We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak**

**But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15).**

**4.  The minister is to complete and fulfill his ministry, fill it to the brim. He is to carry his ministry out to the end, fully perform all duties**

***Ministry(diakonia) which speaks of Christian work in general, covering every mode of service.***

***One of the chief temptations unprepared and neglect.***

***Paul lives an intense and tremendously active life.***

***The word 'drive' characterizes him perfectly. As the saying goes: 'It is better to wear out for the Lord than to rust out'"***

**Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work" (John 4:34).**

**I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do" (John 17:4).**

**He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheepJn 21:17**

**But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).**

**Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).**

**And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry" (1 Tim. 1:12).**

**A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach 1 Tim. 3:2**

**Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind" (1 Peter 5:2).**

**I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the lord, keep not silence" (Isaiah 62:6).**

**And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding" (Jeremiah 3:15).**

**And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the lord" (Jeremiah 23:4).**