



enduring faithfulness

2 TIMOTHY SERIES WEEK 7

faithful to
the end

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2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8

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sermon outline NOTES

I. A transition in leadership (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

- A. Paul recognizes that his life and ministry are coming to an end [2 Timothy 4:6-7]
 - 1. He has given his very life to the work [2 Timothy 4:6; Philippians 2:17]
 - 2. He has remained faithful to the gospel [2 Timothy 4:7; 1 Timothy 6:12-14; Acts 20:24]
- B. Paul looks forward to his reward [2 Timothy 4:8; 1 Peter 1:6-9]
- C. With the inevitable loss of Paul, Timothy must rise to the occasion

II. The charge of word-based ministry (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

- A. Paul gives Timothy a solemn charge [2 Timothy 4:1-2]
 - 1. Paul invokes God as witness [2 Timothy 4:1; Deuteronomy 30:19-20]
 - 2. We are reminded that Jesus is the righteous judge of all [2 Timothy 4:1, 8; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10]
 - 3. We are reminded of Jesus' triumph at his second coming when his kingdom is consummated [2 Timothy 4:1, 8; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10]
 - 4. We are reminded that word-based ministry is the chief work of the church [2 Timothy 4:2; 2:15; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Colossians 1:3-5]
- B. Word-based ministry is essential for us today as it was in Paul and Timothy's day [v3-4]
 - 1. Healthy teaching has become boring [2 Timothy 4:3]
 - 2. Pragmatism, expediency, and self-interest have become dominant [2 Timothy 4:3]
 - 3. Selfish desires have become ultimate [2 Timothy 4:3]
 - 4. Greater increase and access to teacher will tell us what we want to hear [2 Timothy 4:3-4]
- C. Four ways to pursue greater word-based ministry [2 Timothy 4:5]
 - 1. Be sober-minded
 - 2. Endure suffering [2 Timothy 1:8; 2:3; 3:12]
 - 3. Do the work of a gospel proclaimer
 - 4. Fulfill your ministry [2 Timothy 4:7-8]

2 Timothy 4:1–8

I 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: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

sermon reflections

1. What was the solemn charge that Paul gave to Timothy? Why does Paul invoke God the father and God the Son as witnesses?
2. How does Paul motivate Timothy to obey the charge? What is the connection between Jesus as Judge and His second coming?
3. What does it mean for word-based ministry to be the chief work of the church?
4. Why is word-based ministry so essential for today? What are some ways you have seen its importance?
5. Describe in your own words the four ways we can pursue greater word-based ministry? How can you apply those pursuits in your daily life?

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2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8



2 Timothy 4:1–8 FAITHFUL TO THE END

reading THE letter

Making observations in a passage is the best way to become familiar with it and grasp the basic meaning. One helpful technique is to use a notebook (or separate piece of paper) and make the following observations—

- List any **People/Places**—
- List any important **verbs** (actions), **repeated words/phrases**, or other **theological/special terms**—

2 Timothy 4:1–8 FAITHFUL TO THE END

observations

1 What was Paul's charge to Timothy, and why was he so adamant about it?

2 Why did Paul say people would not endure sound teaching?

3 What did Paul mean when he said he was "*being poured out as a drink offering*"?

summary sentence

In your own words, summarize this passage in 1–2 sentences—

paul's encouragement TO timothy

As Paul's second letter to Timothy winds down, we can feel the weight of the final charge he gives. Paul encourages Timothy always to be ready to faithfully and thoroughly preach the Word and to reprove, rebuke, and exhort his flock in order to discipline them for their wrong beliefs and ungodly lifestyles. Timothy is to do this despite coming opposition and to fulfill the duties of his ministry with endurance and patience **[4:2]**. Because, one day, people will grow tired of hearing God's Word and turn to false teachers who will tell them only what they want to hear—which has actually already come for Timothy's community. Despite this, Timothy is encouraged to keep a cool and controlled mind, and be faithful to what God has called him to do **[4:5]**.

Then, in a sobering, gut-wrenching way, we can now see what may have been the motivation for the strong appeal to Timothy in the previous verses. He is *"being poured out like a drink offering"* **[4:6]**. Paul uses the image of ancient religions, including what we see in the Old Testament sacrificial system **[Exod. 29:40-41]**, to describe how he envisioned everything coming to an end. His ministry and life will soon be over; the time for him to leave the earth has come. Seeing the finish line, Paul assesses his life: He's fought the good fight of proclaiming God's truth faithfully, all the way until the end **[4:7]**. And then finally, he declares with confidence his reward: *"the crown of righteousness"* **[4:8]**, which he expects to receive from Yahweh.

2 Timothy 4:1–8 FAITHFUL TO THE END

paul's encouragement TO US

When we first hear the Word of God preached, do we immediately receive it without question? Chances are we don't. The fact that we are sinful beings and unable to do anything about it (**Eph. 2:1-3**) flies in the face of what our fallen nature and the immoral culture tells us to do. As Christians, we don't like being told that sin is still an issue for us (**Rom. 7:21-25**). Our society either encourages us to strive toward self-improvement or to sit back and relax because we're fine just the way we are. Some churches have even embraced the secular gospel of personal fulfillment, individualism, and self-expression. Brothers and sisters, just like the Christians in the first century, we need to be challenged and disciplined toward maturity in what we believe and how we live. We don't come into the kingdom with a complete understanding of God's Word. To be re-proved and rebuked is to be corrected, sometimes publicly, in our thinking and actions so that we can share in His holiness (**Heb. 12:7-11**). What a beautiful picture of God's grace. We struggle with unbelief, wander, and continue to chase idols. God pursues us, disciplines us in love, and brings us back.

The motivation for us to endure discipline, keep cool, and persevere in our ministries is the promise that Jesus, the righteous judge, will one day return to make all things right. This hope is what gave Paul the mindset to persevere, knowing that our time here is short, but the eternal reign of Jesus is long. May we proclaim God's Word faithfully, all the way until the end, so that we'll be ready to see Him in all His glory!

2 Timothy 4:1–8 FAITHFUL TO THE END

presenting ourselves approved TO THE world

responding questions

- 1 To be reprov'd or rebuked can be a difficult process. Share how God's loving discipline has led you to greater holiness.

2 Timothy 4:1–8

FAITHFUL TO THE END

responding questions

2 Is the concept of perseverance part of your regular spiritual growth?

Do you think about what it means to persevere? Have you come up against times in your spiritual journey when things looked too tough to continue on? What got you through that period? Or, are you in that period now?

How can you rely on the strength (and faith) of others to persevere?