

*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: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 2 Tim 4:1-5*

Paul opens this passage with a ‘solemn charge,’ an assigned duty, responsibility or obligation. And it is that Timothy *preach the word*. That he *be ready in season and out of season* to share the faith that was in him. At the time of Paul writing this second letter to Timothy, probably written in 66 or 67, he had an almost twenty year history with Timothy.

*On his second visit to Lystra in 50, Paul discovered Timothy, taking him as a colleague but first circumcising him out of respect for his Jewish mother and the custom of the Jews in whose communities they were to do mission work (Acts 16:1–3). Timothy worked with Paul and Silas and helped found churches, notably in Corinth, Thessalonica, and Philippi. He apparently accompanied Paul to Ephesus and Asia Minor (Acts 19:22; 1 Corinthians 16:10–11). As the presence of his name in the first verses of Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians indicates, he was subsequently associated with Paul’s imprisonment at Ephesus. In the Pastoral Epistles he is solely in charge of the Christians at Ephesus, possibly the site of his release from prison as chronicled in Hebrews 13:23. Encyclopedia Britannica*

Still with all this history Paul still encourages Timothy to *preach the word*. *Study to show yourself approved*. Why does Paul find it so necessary to continue to call this seasoned spiritual warrior to study, to preach, to *show himself approved*? Paul understands that there are many forces of evil that are committed to deceiving the Church of Christ. Jesus had declared, *For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will give great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Mat 24:24*

*14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.*

*15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim 2:14,15*

To prevent the *subverting of the hearers* Paul knows that Timothy, his child in the faith, no matter how many accomplishments, miracles and conversions, he still needs to stand firm. Be careful, *Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 1 Pet 5:8* In his earlier letter Paul told Timothy to *let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. 1 Tim 4:12* Timothy was a believer from his youth but that wasn’t a guarantee that he would be able to finish well. Timothy had a high calling Paul is not doubting Timothy but he aware that the devil works harder on anyone who commits his life to Christ. But he fully understands Christ gives endurance to the believer, He helps us to stand, *He who began a good work in you will perfect it.*

*3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, 5 in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. Phil 1:3-6*

Paul just wants Timothy not to weary, get discouraged or entertain false doctrine, *Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. Gal 6:9*

*2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 2 Tim 4:1-4*

Timothy is to continue to preach the word as stated earlier, *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim 2:15* Paul uses two words reprove and rebuke, when used as verbs, *rebuke means to criticise harshly, whereas reprove means to express disapproval*. Remember this is in the responsibility of the teacher to other believers. This is in the attempt to corral believers in danger of being lead astray. Then Paul says to exhort, *to strongly encourage or urge (someone) to do something*. Timothy is to encourage believers in the true faith, *toward love and good deeds*.

*24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Heb 10:24,25*

He is to do this preaching *with great patience and instruction*. Training in righteousness is a process. God opens our eyes to life in the Spirit, newness of life, the kingdom of God and begins the transformation from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of life. We need to be patient with ourselves in this process but also those we desire to grow in the Lord. We must always remember God is the one at work. Paul writes, *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. Phil 1:6*

Paul wants Timothy to be aware that some will *not endure sound doctrine*. Timothy is to preach the word and to do this he needs to nourish himself, *to be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following*.

*1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons. . . 6 In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. 7 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; 1 Tim 4:1*

*3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 2 Tim 4:3-5*

We need to take this encouragement for ourselves.