

Teaching Series: 2 Timothy
Passage: 2 Timothy 4:1-8
Title: Why Preach the Word?

Summary: In our passage today the speaks to Timothy, and us today, to “preach the word”. Why preach? Because it changes lives! For the hearer, and the declarer. Join us as God gives us another “power passage” of His very heart.

2 Timothy 4:1–8 (NKJV) ¹ I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, 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 is at hand. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Dark Damp Dungeon

The time of this writing is Paul’s second imprisonment. This is Paul’s last Epistle, as he writes he is imprisoned in a dark damp prison cell. In his prior imprisonment’s he was basically under house arrest. There he was chained to a guard 24/7, but the conditions were as close to home as you could get, he had his clothing and blankets, and the basic necessities and basic comforts of home, and visitors could come and go as they pleased. But for this imprisonment, he was in a cold damp crunched cell. I saw these prison cells while I was over in region. Not every cell was the same height, it would vary based on your height, the ceiling would always be one or two foot lower than the persons height so they could never fully stand up, they would always be crunched over. There were no toilets, but a common trench that ran through all the cells, thus everyone’s waste would flow through everyone’s cell. The walls were concrete, and would seep from the outside weather, the cell floor always damp, sometimes even soaked, (Paul will ask Timothy bring me my coat (4:13), for comfort). Of course with these conditions, rats and pests would be living among the prisoners.

Insurrection / Persecution

Paul’s first imprisonment was due to the local Jewish religious leaders, but this imprisonment was due to a much greater wave going through the world. There was massive persecution against the Christians at this time. The charge against Paul for his second imprisonment was inciting an insurrection against Rome,

Historical writings tell us, it was July 19, AD64 Rome was in flames. Though it was never known who started it, it was on such a scale that it was clear that it was not an accident. Many writings said it was Emperor Caesar Nero himself who set the blaze. They say as Rome burned he sat on his balcony twiddling his fingers, just watching it burn. He was bored with his world, nothing left to conquer, so in his mind if he could burn Rome down, then he could rebuild it. Rebuild it bigger and more fabulous, a tribute for the ages to come, a legacy for him to be remembered. As the citizens of Rome were outraged at the arson against their city, Nero accused the Christians of burning Rome, thus started the wave of persecution against the Christians.

Abandoned by Everyone

On top of these conditions Paul was abandoned by virtually everyone, as we will read in chapter four. The reason he was abandoned, everyone was afraid to be associated with Paul because they feared they would suffer the same fate as him. For unlike Paul's confident hope of release during his first imprisonment (Phil 1:19,25,26;2:24; Philemon 1:22), this time he had no such hope, he knew execution was imminent.

My Time is at Hand

(2 Timothy 4:6 KJV) For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

Passing the Mantel / Stand Strong Timothy

Yet with all this, what is Paul's heart, his young protégé Timothy. He writes him to encourage him to continue in the ministry in strength and power. It was the passing of the mantel, Timothy would now have to be the one who would lead and give spiritual leadership to the churches in the days of persecution. No small task, Paul will tell Timothy you must persevere, you must be a pattern for others to follow, you must prevail against the perils before you, and you must preach the Word.

Last Words

These are the last words of the greatest pastor/teacher/evangelist that ever walked the earth, next to Jesus. We should make this book become a part of our very being.

Theme of the Book:

(2 Timothy 1:13 NKJV) Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

(2 Timothy 1:14 NKJV) That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

Detailed Outline Chapter 4: Preach the Word!

- The Charge to Preach (4:1-2)
- The Need for Preaching (4:3-5)
- The Prize for Preaching (4:6-8)
- The Price for Preaching (4:9-22)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

1.) The Charge to Preach (4:1-2)

(2 Timothy 4:1 NKJV) I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: (2 Timothy 4:2 NKJV) Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

Charge / Testify Under oath / not Optional

I charge you therefore – the word charge here means to testify under oath. Paul is saying Timothy, I have this straight form the Lord, and now all who read it today, this is not optional service, you are to Preach the Word.

Before God

Before God, means in the presence of God. The oath is taken in the very presence of God Himself.

Preach / to Herald / not a Negotiator

Preach the word – Preach means to herald. In Paul's day a ruler had a special herald who made announcements to the people. He was commissioned by the ruler to make his announcements in a loud, clear voice so everyone could hear the announcement. He was not an ambassador with the privilege of negotiating, he was a messenger with a proclamation to be heard and heeded. He wasn't to debate the announcement, nor defend it, just to proclaim it for he did not write it. For the hearer not to heed the ruler's messenger was serious; to abuse the messenger was even worse.

The world is so hopeless, this message is their only hope.

Christian, you need only declare the Word..... and then let God do the rest. Now wisdom and power, as we have studied, after you preach, you retreat to pray for the hearer of that Word you just spoke, that their heart would be readied to receive the Word, be guided in the truth of the Word. Remember the parable of the Sower and the Seed, as the birds of the air, the weeds of the earth choke, and the soil is shallow, all destroy the Word taking root.

John 16:13–15 (NKJV) ¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

Matthew 13:18–24 (NKJV) ¹⁸ "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. ²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. ²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. ²³ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." ²⁴ Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;

What to preach / The Word / the whole Counsel

Notice what we are to preach? the Word. Not our opinions, or pet peeves, or anything else, but the Word. In churches today, plays, dramas, testimonies, dinners, concerts, etc should never substitute the preaching of the Word. They are nice, but that cannot

be the diet of the church, you have to feed them solid food, and only snacks on occasion

(Acts 20:26 NKJV) "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.

(Acts 20:27 NKJV) "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

(Acts 20:28 NKJV) "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

(Acts 20:29 NKJV) "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

(Acts 20:30 NKJV) "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

Be Ready / Urgency / Living & Dead / Make Opportunities not Excuses

Be ready in season and out of season – Be ready means to have a sense of urgency..... and keep a sense of urgency. The urgency is verse 1, the living and dead will be judged.

When Paul referred to the Lord Jesus Christ he added who shall judge the quick the living and the dead. This idea of judgment is a primary theme of Paul's preaching and writing. Jesus Christ is the one to whom this judgment is given by the father. It will happen at his appearing and the coming of his Kingdom. Appearing is the Greek word used to refer to the Roman emperor first ascension to the throne and secondly a visit to a province or town. In this application both concepts fit Christ appearing and Kingdom.

Acts 17:31 (NKJV) ³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Romans 2:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

1 Corinthians 4:5 (NKJV) ⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

Once, a lady was accused of a crime. She was guilty and she knew she needed a crack defense attorney. A lawyer was recommended. She wrote down his name and address. But she delayed in contacting him. When her trial date grew closer she realized she needed to act, so she called the attorney. Sadly, it was too late. He explained that if she'd called just a week earlier he would've been happy to take her case, but two days ago he'd been appointed a judge. Instead of being her advocate, he had now become her judge! And this is going to happen to millions of people on Earth. Today Jesus sits at the right hand of God as our advocate - our attorney. He's willing to plead our case and secure for us the mercy and pardon of God. But soon, when Jesus returns, He'll be appointed Judge. And He'll be forced to condemn everyone who ignored or opposed Him. Don't wait to call Jesus...

So Christian, Don't wait now is the time. "Preaching Season" is always open. Don't wait for a mission trip to preach, or inside the church walls, take it to your streets and family homes. **It is easy to be making excuses when we ought to be making opportunities.**

Be instant in season and out of season is rendered in the amplified Bible keep your sense of urgency, be at hand and be ready whether the opportunity seems to be favorable or unfavorable, whether it's convenient or inconvenient, whether it be welcome or unwelcome. Instant is the verb in the Greek that means to stand by be at hand to be ready to be prepared

As you may know I enjoy the outdoors and hunting. But if there is one reason I would stop hunting it is my wife's expectations on me that every outing results in success. It is a big forest out there. But the general rule for hunting is..... you have to put your time in, and wait. And then when the moment comes, you have to be ready, trained, steady, and confident. You see the correlation? And, don't let the pressures of success keep you at home on the couch.

3 Elements for Preaching

Convince, rebuke, exhort, - Preaching is marked by these three elements.

- **Convince** – the meaning here is to expose. To bring them to conviction, to show fault.
- **Rebuke** – I'll sum it up in my words, "to make them uncomfortable for their actions or lifestyle."
- **Exhort** – to bring them comfort and encouragement. For those who are under conviction of their sin, and have repented, then we are to comfort and encourage them.

Preachers should afflict the comfortable, and comfort the afflicted.

Longsuffering / Like a Farmer

with all longsuffering - Like a Farmer we have to have patience with the seeds we plant, the harvest won't come immediately.

John 16:13–15 (NKJV) ¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

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Teaching / Doctrine / Application / not Speechmaking

and teaching - Now the NKJV calls it teaching, but the correct translation should be "doctrine". True preaching is the explanation and application of Bible doctrine. Anything else is just religious speechmaking.

Paul gives the charge to preach, and now the reason we need to preach.

2.) The Need for Preaching (4:3-5)

(2 Timothy 4:3 NKJV) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

(2 Timothy 4:4 NKJV) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

(2 Timothy 4:5 NKJV) But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Perilous Times / no sound Doctrine / Ichy ears / No Truth

We live in perilous times, the word is inspired, but people will still reject it. People will not endure sound doctrine. They will find teachers that tell them what they want to hear (itching ears). Once a teacher just tells people what they want to hear, gives them a bunch of stories and illustrations that make them feel good (fables), then the truth will be gone, and they will be set-up to follow any old lie, and/or the desires of their flesh.

(2 Timothy 4:5 NKJV) But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Here are four brief imperatives told to Timothy.

Be Watchful / 2 Reasons A&B / Our Youth

V.5 - *But you be watchful in all things* – Timothy, look around you, these are perilous times. I feel a sense of urgency to preach,

- A: because the rapture or death could happen today,
- B: because as each day goes by, people get sucked further and further into the deception of this world around us.

That is why youth ministry is so important, we have to reach the youth with the gospel before they takeoff down a road that we may never see them again. The lies of sex, drugs, and the trinkets of this world.

Endure Afflictions / Battle Wounds / the Prize is Near

V.5 - *endure afflictions* – we are soldiers, war brings battle wounds, endure a little while longer, the prize is near.

Work of Evangelist / Work means Work / Most meaningful comes from Work

V.5 - *do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.* - the word for evangelists means a messenger of good and that is what our message is it is good and it gives life and it gives abundant life.

Gospel – Sing Out / We have New Song in Hearts / Present as Such

In Matthew 10 when Jesus sends the disciples out, He says go to Israel, the Jews first. Tell them the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Tell them the King has come. The Greek word for preach is kerusso, it means “to sing out. That’s the word for preach. Sing it out. Sing out the gospel! God has given us a new song, in our hearts to sing, a new song, praises for the King. Don’t turn sharing into some crybaby cowboy song where the dog dies, the girlfriend leaves, and the ranch burns down. This gospel, this song, is a wonderful, it is a joy to be alive, love song. Present it as such we you share it. It isn’t I got bad news you are going to hell, but I have great news heaven’s doors have been opened for you, let me tell ya how to walk through them.

Matthew 10:5–7 (NKJV) ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. ⁶ But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’

George Whitefield

George Whitefield one of the men used mightily by the Lord in the Great Awakening in this Country. The Great Awakening was a religious revival that impacted the English colonies in America during the 1730s and 1740s. The movement came at a time when the idea of secular rationalism was being emphasized, and passion for religion had grown stale.

He said:

Other men may preach the gospel better than I, but no man can preach a better gospel

Folks, we have the greatest news in the world, and our world, our Country needs it now! Don't worry about how well you can preach, just sing it out from your heart, and let the Lord take it from there.

V.5 - do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry -The word work here means, work. Evangelism is work. But I tell you something: I really enjoy skiing, basketball, going to a good movie, but when they are over, its over. But the things that are the most meaningful to me are the result of work. It is through my work that I have my home, my car, my clothing, my food, my education. The same is true with evangelism, it is work, sometimes extremely hard (hence chapter 2: soldier, athletes, farmer), but the work will be so worth it, when for all of eternity, someone will be there because will were willing to co-work, co-labor with the Lord. Then the Prize comes.

3.) The Prize for Preaching (4:6-8)

(2 Timothy 4:6 NKJV) For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

(2 Timothy 4:7 NKJV) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Drink Offering / Departure at hand / Anchor / Unyoke / Tent

Paul gives 2 illustrations to show his triumphant view of death. The first is the Old Testament drink offering wine poured around the base of the altar we read that in numbers chapter 15 verses one through 10. Paul said I am now ready to be offered poured out as a libation. The verb tense indicates the action is already in process

Numbers 15:1-10 (NKJV) ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you have come into the land you are to inhabit, which I am giving to you, ³ and you make an offering by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering or a sacrifice, to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering or in your appointed feasts, to make a sweet aroma to the LORD, from the herd or the flock, ⁴ then he who presents his offering to the LORD shall bring a grain offering of one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with one-fourth of a hin of oil; ⁵ and one-fourth of a hin of wine as a drink offering you shall prepare with the burnt offering or the sacrifice, for each lamb. ⁶ Or for a ram you shall prepare as a grain offering two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with one-third of a hin of oil; ⁷ and as a drink offering you shall offer one-third of a hin of wine as a sweet aroma to the LORD. ⁸ And when you prepare a young bull as a burnt offering, or as a sacrifice to fulfill a vow, or as a peace offering to the LORD, ⁹ then shall be offered with the young bull a grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with half a hin of oil; ¹⁰ and you shall bring as the drink offering half a hin of wine as an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.

The second illustration is found in the word departure as it was used in its time meant:

- To take up anchor - ready to set sail
- Unyoke the oxen - been plowing long enough, time to rest.
- Fold up the tent - time to break camp and move on

Paul was saying it was time for him to take up the anchor, unyoke from his labors, fold up the tent and move on, it connotes freedom. Dismantling of a tent is reminiscent of the words in second Peter one 14 through 15

2 Peter 1:14–15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. ¹⁵ Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

Fought the fight / What a Statement / Sometimes don't want to Fight / Not Optional

V.7 - I have fought the good fight - What a statement, to live a long life and say I've fought the good fight. For me, I really feel like my fight has just begun, and there is much more fight left, especially considering that we live in perilous times. To be honest, sometimes I really don't feel like fighting. Sometimes I want to rest from the training and the fight, I want to sit ringside and watch others for a while. But my friends, service isn't optional, it is a commandment:

(2 Timothy 4:1 NKJV) I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

(2 Timothy 4:2 NKJV) Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

Here Paul is, a word for all who are tired.... Paul refused to tap out, even when faced with all the trials and oppositions he endured. Christian, don't tap out of your tough marriage, singles don't tap out of your purity, youth don't tap out of going against the flow, Christian, what ever the devil and world throws at you, don't tap out! Finish Well!

I Have Finished the Race

Paul said I have finished my course which is translated race. Notice Paul did not say I have won my race rather he said I have finished. So we see continual, soldier, athlete, and farmer as life illustration for us to live.

2 Timothy 2:1–7 (NKJV) ¹ You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. ³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. ⁵ And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. ⁷ Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

Kept the Faith / New Believer Faith / 2 Cor 5 / Job 31:15

I have kept the faith - Paul had kept the faith, through it all, even when things were bad, even when it appeared that this couldn't be the will of God. We have such a miss conception of what faith truly is. Once the blessings leave, we start to question everything, ourselves, others, and even God. So often our faith is based on emotional and external circumstances, not on what God is trying to do in us.

Oswald Chambers wrote: We have the idea that God rewards us for our faith, and it may be so in the initial stages. But we do not earn anything through faith—faith brings us into the right relationship with God and gives Him His opportunity to work. Yet God frequently has to knock the bottom out of your experience as His saint to get you in direct contact with Himself. God wants you to understand that it is a life of faith, not a life of emotional enjoyment of His blessings. The beginning of your life of faith was very narrow and intense, centered around a small amount of experience that had as much emotion as faith in it, and it was full of light and sweetness. Then God withdrew His conscious blessings to teach you to "walk by faith" (2 Corinthians 5:7). And you are worth much more to Him now than you were in your days of conscious delight with your thrilling testimony.

Faith by its very nature must be tested and tried. And the real trial of faith is not that we find it difficult to trust God, but that God's character must be proven as trustworthy in our own minds. Faith being worked out into reality must experience times of unbroken isolation. Never confuse the trial of faith with the ordinary discipline of life, because a great deal of what we call the trial of faith is the inevitable result of being alive. Faith, as the Bible teaches it, is faith in God coming against everything that contradicts Him—a faith that says, "I will remain true to God's character whatever He may do."

The highest and the greatest expression of faith in the whole Bible is—"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15).

(2 Timothy 4:8 NKJV) Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Crown / Olympian / Jesus will crown you

Crown - the Greek word is "stephanos", it was a wreath made with leaves, and was the crown that was given to the Olympians upon victory of an event. But the crown Paul was to receive wasn't something that would eventually wither and fade, but a crown of righteousness. Imagine this gang, God Himself placing the wreath on your head after you finish your fight, after you take-up your anchor, pull the tent stakes and fold the tent up, imagine Him putting the crown on your head and saying well done, you competed according to the rules, you were not disqualified, you are a victor. How much is that worth to you. I remind this to myself when I want to take a break, and rest while.

Who was Paul Fighting For?

Paul said he fought the good fight, therefore he must have been in a fight, but who was he really fighting for? Paul wasn't fighting for himself; he was fighting for others. If you consider it, he was fighting for you and I also, for his example and word are strength to us today.

(Philippians 1:21 NKJV) For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

(Philippians 1:22 NKJV) But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

(Philippians 1:23 NKJV) For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

(Philippians 1:24 NKJV) Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

(Philippians 1:25 NKJV) And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,

(Philippians 1:26 NKJV) that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

Paul was willing to battle through it all for others, because soldiers (2 Timothy 2) fight for their nation....
Others.

(2 Corinthians 11:23 NKJV) Are they ministers of Christ?; I speak as a fool; I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.

(2 Corinthians 11:24 NKJV) From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.

(2 Corinthians 11:25 NKJV) Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

(2 Corinthians 11:26 NKJV) in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

(2 Corinthians 11:27 NKJV) in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness;

(2 Corinthians 11:28 NKJV) besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

How willing are you to Fight / Do you Realize the Difference you make? / Disengage

The question for us today is, how willing are you to stay in the fight for others. How much are you willing to go through for the sake of others. I say this because I doubt we truly realize what a difference we can and do make in other peoples lives. It is not until you have disengaged from the battle that you see how many lives get damaged or destroyed by the enemy.

Over when the Commander & Chief calls you home

The truth of the Christian life is this, the battle isn't over until our Commander and Chief calls us home. Iraq will be over when our Commander and Chief says bring our troops home. Someday Jesus is going to call His troops home, we will go rest awhile, then we will stand for one last battle, actually one short battle.

Fight / Receive the Crown / Be Served

And how amazing that will be, and reason enough to stay in the fight until the very end, we will receive the crown, the prize, and then imagine this, He, the Lord of all Creation, will serve us.

(Luke 12:37 NKJV) "Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them."

Maybe you've Disengaged / Get back in / Jesus will still Serve You

Hey maybe you have disengaged from the battle, maybe you have failed in previous missions, its ok, you can still get back in the battle. I know that is for a fact because I seen it before, the

(Matthew 26:33 NKJV) Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble."

(Matthew 26:34 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

(Matthew 26:35 NKJV) Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples.

(Matthew 26:36 NKJV) Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."

(Matthew 26:40 NKJV) Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?"

(John 21:7 NKJV) Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.

(John 21:8 NKJV) But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish.

(John 21:12 NKJV) Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"; knowing that it was the Lord.

(John 21:13 NKJV) Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.

Peter didn't do what the Lord had asked him to do, just pray. Peter had made the great and mighty statement, even if it cost me death, I will not deny you. We all know the story when it came time to stand with Him, Peter disengaged from the battle. But, when he heard it was Jesus calling him to himself, he jumped in the water head first, left it all behind and swam to his Master. And what happened? Jesus served him. Ohh a glorious story, not just for Peter, but for you and me, a bunch of failures.

That is the prize for preaching and enduring afflictions, for doing the work of an evangelist.

Loved His Appearing

Paul knew he would receive this crown at that day the day when Christ will come again. Then he added that the Lord the righteous judge, will award a crown to everyone who loves his appearing. The perfect tense of this verb for appearing suggest they have loved and will continue to love his appearing and church soon and very soon we're going to see the King.

3.) The Price for Preaching (4:9-22)

In verses 9-22, we see an abandoned apostle, and we read of his heartbreak regarding Demas forsaking him after all their time together, and Demas choosing the world over Paul and the Gospel, how heartbreaking for Paul. He will make mention of others who have harmed him (Alexander the coppersmith), and others he has sent forth for ministry purposes (Titus and Tychicus). Only Luke is with Paul at the time of this writing. Beloved, there is a price for preaching, attacks of the devil, attacks of people, abandonment of people who were invested in of the very Gospel you were faithful to deliver, and some that will be sent out leaving you all alone. But simply put, the price and the prize are inseparable.... But when the crown is laid upon our heads by the very God we love..... we will say "worth it all". Beloved, Don't Tap Out!

2 Timothy 4:9-22 (NKJV) ⁹ Be diligent to come to me quickly; ¹⁰ for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. ¹² And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. ¹³ Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. ¹⁵ You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. ¹⁶ At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. ¹⁸ And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen! ¹⁹ Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. ²⁰ Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick. ²¹ Do your utmost to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren. ²² The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

Detailed Outline Chapter 4: Preach the Word!

- The Charge to Preach (4:1-2)
- The Need for Preaching (4:3-5)
- The Prize for Preaching (4:6-8)
- The Price for Preaching (4:9-22)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His mighty work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

