

II Timothy 4 – 17 March 2024

“Present In Our Relationships”

Introduction

*Paul will be off the scene soon and is wanting to prepared Timothy for the future

*Chap 1 Paul taught to be ‘proud to live for Jesus’

*Chap 2 Paul taught to be ‘profitable as a good soldier’

*Chap 3 Paul taught to be ‘protected by the true Word’

No in Chap 4 Paul finishes by teaching us to be ‘present in our relationships’

*A language experiment was conducted by the Roman Emperor Frederick II (13th century). He wanted to know what the original language of Adam & Eve was. He decided to isolate a few infants from the sound of human voice & as much human inter action as possible. Nurses were paid to feed & wash the infants but the infants never heard a word or human sound. Within months they were all dead.

*It’s hard-wired into us to need interaction – we’re going to have them w/ many people - so let’s do it well

Today, we’ll see 3 ways to be ever present and effective in all our relationships

1st – Toward the World: Preach the Word (Vs 1-5)

Read Vs 1-2

1. This is a charge to Timothy publicly before God who is the authority
 - a. In other words, Paul says, ‘I’m opening myself up to God’s judgement if I’m wrong here’
2. God the judge – (joke) There’s only 2 kinds of people in traffic (quick and the dead)
3. The emphasis of II Timothy is to know the word and giving it out
 - a. Notice the combination of giving out the Word but also applying it to people’s situation
 - b. Be ready also to give out God’s Word not just our opinion

Read Vs 3-4

1. We will either seek the truth or we’ll seek what makes us comfortable and happy
 - a. Not just in life but even in the church
 - b. Not just in church but even in our pulpits

c. Churches either seek to feed the sheep or entertain the goats... so feed the sheep

2. Examples

a. Do you believe the comfortable lie that man evolved from nothing or the truth of Creation?

b. Do you believe the comfortable lie that man can be good or the truth of Christ's cross?

c. Do you believe the comfortable lie that you judge the Bible or that the Bible judges YOU?

Read Vs 5

1. 'Watch thou in all things': Be aware of current events & be prepared to Biblically speak to them

2. 'Endure afflictions': This is subject of Chap 2

3. 'Do work of evangelist': Don't neglect the preaching of the life-changing 1st steps of the cross

4. 'Make full proof': Push on every angle of your Christian life

a. Don't become unbalanced in Christian disciplines (Bible study, prayer, fellowship, etc.)

2nd – Toward the Lord: Be faithful to the end (Vs 6-8)

Read Vs 6

1. “Offered” – Gk for *spent* – this is the Mosaic Law’s Drink Offering (Num 28:7)
2. This offering was poured out on the daily sacrifice twice daily
3. Read Phil 2:16-17 – The main offering is the work and the Drink Offering is our life
4. My (Paul’s) work is nearly done so then his life has no purpose afterward
5. Mary poured the alabaster bottle of spikenard on Jesus as a drink offering on the 1 true sacrifice

Read Vs 7

1. Fought, finished and kept
 - a. Fight – Are you fighting the right battle?
 - i. Paul fought the ‘good fight’ of faith
 - b. Finished – Are you committed or flip flopping?
 - i. There’s a set course we KNOW glorifies God

c. Kept – You can make it to the end but stop living for Jesus

i. We know what it means to be faithful in a marriage and it's the same with Christ

2. Read I Cor 9:24 – Run that you may WIN

Read Vs 8

1. Take a look at the *crowns* in the Bible

a. Crown of righteousness: loving His appearance

b. Crowns are incorruptible (I Cor 9:25)

c. Crown of life: enduring temptation (Jam 1:12, Rev 2:10)

d. Crown of glory: fades not away (I Pet 5:4)

2. There IS a reward for a life lived for Jesus

a. Read I Pet 1:3-4

3rd – Toward the Church: Do godliness together (Vs 9-18)

Read Vs 9-13

1. Relationship & presence are so important
 - a. Which is more important to you; your relationship with the world or with Jesus?
2. Even in a very limited environment, Paul used every resource to continue serving the Lord (parchments)
 - a. Use what you have
 - b. You're not accountable for anything else

Read Vs 14-15

1. This is 'Handling Adversaries 101'
 - a. Our action is to warn others and stay clear
 - b. The Lord's action is to take vengeance
2. Paul's not calling down judgement, but simply stating the fact that it will happen

Read Vs 16-18

1. If not a single person agrees with the Gospel, I can endure, why? B/c God is for me
2. Notice Paul endured until the Gospel was FULLY given (Read Rom 15:19)
 - a. Are you holding back what you know you should be giving?
3. Paul “shall be” delivered
 - a. Deliverance doesn't always come thru healing, sometimes thru a changed situation
 - b. Plz notice the optimism and hope that true faith brings in vs 18

Read Vs 19-21

1. He's not thinking of possessions, power, or payback
 - a. In his parting remarks, Paul heart is toward people

Read Vs 22

1. What we need above all is connection w/ Jesus

Conclusion

So as Paul's life now comes to a close...on earth, we know it goes on & on b/c of His relationship w/ Jesus

1. **Paul was present in his relationships with the World by preaching the Word**
 - a. ...And b/c of it, many more have found eternal life in Jesus
2. **Paul was present in his relationship with the Lord and was faithful to the end**
 - a. ...And b/c of it, he's enjoying rest & reward in the eternal presence of God
3. **Paul was present in his relationships within the Church by living godly lives together**
 - a. ...And b/c of it, the Gospel continue, even today, to multiple out into the world, until Jesus comes to take us home!