

Intro: Preaching to myself this morning. You get to listen in.

Main Idea: "Preach the Word. Listen to the Preached Word."

I. Preach the Word

A. **In the presence of God and Jesus.** This is His Word. Message. King. Judge.

ILLUSTRATION: A Herald. Messenger of the King. Sent out to tell the Truth exactly.

> "I preach as a dying man to dying men." - **Richard Baxter.**

> "I have never feared the Devil, but I tremble every time I enter the pulpit." - **John Knox.**

B. **This is about Him.** Appearing (Life) and Kingdom (Death, Resurrection, Church, etc)

C. **Preach the Gospel.** Work of an Evangelist. Tell the good news. Announce it. Declare.

ILLUSTRATION: Angels in Luke 2. When they came to Shepherds. "We are evangelizing to you." "We bring you good news." Sent by God to make an announcement. Messengers.

APPLICATION: Preach the Gospel or Preach the Word? YES. Can't do one without the other.

II. Preach Every Season

A. **In Season** - Fruit. Life. Abundance. Growth. Vibrancy. Encourage moments in ministry. Feels almost like the Lord is affirming your work/labor. Like you're doing something right.

Tell yourself: "*This is the way things are supposed to be.*" "*Doing God's will.*"

B. **Out of Season** - Dry. Dead. Dying. Decrease. Scarcity. Hunger. Cold. Gray. Dreary. Sad. Stale. Discouraging times in ministry. "Something's wrong." Must be doing something wrong. Something's wrong with me. We need to do something different. New strategy. Switch things up. Reach young people. More exciting. Relevant. Adapt to culture. This can't be God's will for us. He obviously would want continued fruit and growth all time.

C. **Time is coming or is here?** (could've been talking about Timothy's specific context too).

D. **Won't ENDURE sound teaching.** Not gonna take it. Have it. Tolerate it. Not allowed.

E. **Get Pastors/Preachers who will preach what we want to hear.** (Anyone can do this.) Homosexuality. Abortion. Rights. Freedoms. Or...be who want to be. Proud of your sin.

F. **They'll turn away from listening to the Truth.** Why are you surprised/shocked?

G. **What do we do?** New strategy? No. **Preach the Word. In/Out of season.**

H. **Reprove, Rebuke, Exhort** - Point out the wrong. Preach against sin. Command repentance. Encourage growth. Invite belief. Speak Truth. Patience and gentleness.

ILLUSTRATION/APPLICATION: It's time to start planting now. Tilling. Prepping dirt. Plant. The fruit bearing season/harvest is actually the shortest time of year. Prep/work takes longest.

III. Preach with Patience

A. **Complete Patience.** Long-Suffering. Endure suffering. Suffering is inevitable in ministry.

ILLUSTRATION: 2 Cor. 11:23-28. Paul's Sufferings. Last/Worst? Anxiety of the churches.

B. **Ministry is hard.** Painful. Hard. Anxiety. Slow-to-Anger.

C. **Always being sober-minded.** Keep your head. Stay humble. Watch your anxiety/discouragement. Don't tell yourself lies. Don't fool yourself. Remind yourself of truth.

D. **Fulfill your Ministry.** Do your job. Simple job. But hard job. **Preach. Pray. Evangelize.**

E. **Don't stress out about what's above your paygrade.** Too many preachers try to be the Holy Spirit rather than rely on the Holy Spirit. Jesus said "I will build my church."

ILLUSTRATION: ACE. Smart keys. Duke or Hunter. Above our paygrade. We're hired workers.

APPLICATION: Only the Holy Spirit can convince, convict and convert. Only He can change sinner's heart. Only He can bear fruit in believer's life. Stay Faithful. **Preach the Word.**

One Application for you: Always listen to Preached Word. Faithful Preaching. Work. Willingness to be Challenged. Convicted. Changed. Attend to the Preaching of God's Word.