

ITCHING EARS

We are living in the times where we must preach, teach, and live the gospel no matter the opposition and seeing culture drifting further away from truth

In prayer earlier this week, I was so deeply disturbed by the false teaching, critics of His church, and a very distorted view of the truth

I came to you with the calling of an evangelist today

Paul gave Timothy some instructions on how to correct this and he changed Timothy and us with this!

2 Tim 4:1-5 NKJV I charge you ^[a]therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead ^[b]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.

A few examples of what I'm talking about:

Tucker Carlson has publicly stated that Muslims love and revere Jesus Christ

Pope Leo 14th publicly stated that he encourages Christians to embrace a spirit of confidence and openness in their relationships with Muslims, and then went on to say that Christian churches and Muslim mosques can and should stand side by side. He noted that this coexistence offers a visible reminder of the shared longing for God

Another prominent Christian figure who refused to declare Biblical truth in an interview, led many to believe that there is such a thing as Christian Buddhists –

Listen, Christ shares His Deity with no one!

You can't afford to get your doctrine from podcast and social media theologians!

Islam and Buddhists are not compatible with Christianity. Why? It's the spirit behind their teaching, it's the spirit of antichrist

Our society is trying to blur the lines, but Christ came to draw the line!

2 Cor 6:14-18 NKJV Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what [a] fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what [b] communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you [c] are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

**“I will dwell in them
And walk among *them*.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people.”**

¹⁷ **Therefore**

**“Come out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord.
Do not touch what is unclean,
And I will receive you.”**

¹⁸ **“I will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the Lord Almighty.”**

Let's look at this passage in our text from **2 Timothy 4:1-5:**

V 1 – Paul's Charge to Timothy

This is actually a command to Timothy under oath before God and Christ, who will judge both the living and the dead at His appearing

Timothy would be held accountable to God!

Church, according to **2 Cor 5:10** we will all one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give account for our lives, actions, and words

V 2 – Command, Preach the Word

Be ready suggests an urgent vigorous proclamation to preach the gospel in season and out of season whether it's convenient or not, and whether it's acceptable or not

Church, we are to be prepared for, courageous in, and sensitive to God-given opportunities to share the gospel

How to preach?

Correct those in error, rebuke those living in continual sin and lead them to repentance, encourage those who are growing to keep growing in faith, care for with great patience, and careful instruction with compassion

Preach the word. Why?

Eph 5:16 NIV making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil

V 3 – the Reason to enforce this charge: the coming apostasy

Paul warns there is coming a time and it's already here when people will not endure sound doctrine, they will refuse it!

He was pointing out the evil intentions of false teacher which could not flourish if we gave them no audience!

They won't endure sound doctrine because it's not what they want to hear, it's convicting and it makes demands they don't want to follow

They claim to be Christians but can't tolerate the gospel and only have negative things to say about His church and His bride

So they turn their ears away from truth and they develop itching ears who seek out teachers who will agree with what they want while disregarding the truth

Most of the time, those with itching ears aren't really seeking knowledge but power

They will not tolerate truth, they reject truth for sensationalism, they want truth that only fits their situation and only makes sense to them

So they go around seeking to gather people to suit and promote their selfish desires (Revelation the other morning)

They heap up for themselves teachers

I've often wondered how you could find many teachers to satisfy their itching ears. The Holy Spirit said social media and AI you can find anything you want in any flavor you desire

You can find those who claim to have a new revelation even if it's against God's Word – itching ears follow right along with them –it's only myths and fables

Why? They don't want sound doctrine. You want a new revelation that's what you want and requires nothing from you

Those with itching ears won't be submissive to authority and refuse to sit under it because it doesn't fit their personal beliefs

You see, it constantly those with itching ears who constantly hurl insults against His church. They're not a prophet with a new revelation, they're a false prophet heading toward apostasy

Apostasy: the conscious and intentional abandonment of the Christian faith who was once a part of His covenant church

Apostasy: the Greek meaning is a revolt or falling away from sound doctrine and absolute truth

2 Thes 2:1-4 Bible & commentary

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of ^[a]Christ had come. ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of ^[b]sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits ^[c]as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

At what point do people become responsible for the errors in their belief?

Apostasy is willful ignorance but if you don't follow His leading, we're guilty of more than ignorance or error, we're guilty of rebellion

Don't retaliate, instead love the truth, endure the suffering, and do the work of an evangelist

If the ones you're following are against His church, they're not for you or His Kingdom!

Watch out for itching ears!