

The Very Next Thing

Part 4

May 6, 2018

I **SLIDE** Our Mission

A) **2 Timothy 4:1-5 (NIV)** ¹ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, ² Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.

- 1) Preach: To proclaim, announce publicly
- 2) **SLIDE** A little more on in and out of season
 - a) These speak of opportunities the Lord gives us
 - b) These are not isolated moments, but open doors to proclaim the truth
 - c) In season means when it is convenient, like sharing here
 - d) Out of season refers to a time when it is not convenient for us to share
 - e) We are to preach God's Word both when we believe that it is appropriate to do so and when it is inconvenient.
 - f) In other words, we are to be ready to proclaim publicly the word all of the time

B) **SLIDE** Correct, rebuke, and encourage

- 1) Correct: Literally to shame or disgrace BUT ONLY to convict to show wrong; to convince of error
- 2) Reprove: To reprimand strongly to bring conviction and change
- 3) Encourage: To exhort, to aid, help and comfort

II **SLIDE** With GREAT patience and CAREFUL instruction

A) With Great Patience

- 1) Ophelia White
 - a) Spent most of her life not truly knowing Jesus Christ as her personal savior

- b) She has a message for us: it is never too late to become a Christian
 - c) Therefore, we must preach the word with great patience
 - d) Ophelia was baptized recently at the age of 94
 - 2) Gentleman with walker
 - a) **SLIDE**
 - b) We preach the word, we correct, we reprove, and we encourage not just with patience but with GREAT patience
 - B) **SLIDE** Our ministry
 - 1) **Matthew 5:9 (NIV)** [Jesus said,] ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.
 - a) Blessed: being marked by fullness from God
 - b) Peacemaker: one who brings peace between two parties AND one who spreads the good news of the peace he or she has experienced through Jesus Christ
 - 2) **SLIDE 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (NIV)** ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.
 - a) **SLIDE** Reconcile: Used of the divine work of redemption denoting that act of redemption insofar as God Himself is concerned by taking upon Himself our sin and becoming an atonement. Thus, a relationship of peace with mankind is established which was hitherto prevented by the demands of His justice. In *katallássō*, God is the subject, man the object
- Complete Word Study Dictionary, The - The Complete Word Study Dictionary - New Testament.

- b) **SLIDE** We have the ministry, the responsibility, the opportunities to become peacemakers by preaching the good news that Jesus died to remove the enmity between each of us and God
- c) We are to implore people to be reconciled to God through Christ Jesus
- d) We are to be ready to do this in season and out of season, when it is convenient and when it is not
- 3) Being a peacemaker, being one who reconciles two arguing parties, being one who reconciles a lost person to God Himself requires grace and Great patience
- 4) They are all related: making peace, reconciling, and restoring
- 5) They require great patience - not just patience but great patience
- 6) **SLIDE** Benjamin Rush: peacemaker
 - a) **SLIDE** John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, friends and fellow revolutionists
 - b) Both played an integral part in our breaking with England and winning our freedom
 - c) Throughout the Revolutionary War, the three (Rush, Adams, and Jefferson) remained close friends
 - d) However, as independence became a reality, differences about the role of the federal government soon separated these two friends
 - e) Adams aligned himself with the Federalist Party, who believed in a stronger central government
 - f) Jefferson, who wrote the Declaration of Independence, aligned with Anti-Federalist Party, which favored stronger states' rights and individual rights
 - g) Adams was elected President
 - h) When he was up for reelection, Jefferson ran against him
 - i) The relationship between the two old friends was strained and icy

- j) Jefferson defeated Adams, and the friendship seemed broken for good
- k) This bothered Benjamin Rush a great deal
- l) He was concerned about his new nation, but he was also concerned about the rift that was opening between these two men
- m) We must be careful not to let "pressing problems" blind us to the opportunities to be peacemakers
- n) One year after Jefferson left office in 1809 (the discord between Adams and Jefferson had lasted over 20 years), Benjamin Rush had a dream.
- o) He wrote down the dream and sent it to Adams. Listen carefully to the dream
 - i) *"What book is that in your hands?" said I to my son Richard a few nights ago in a dream. "It is the history of the United States," said he. "Shall I read a page of it to you?" "No, no," said I. "I believe in the truth of no history but in that which is contained in the Old and New Testaments." "But, sir," said my son, "this page relates to your friend Mr. Adams." "Let me see it then," said I. I read it with great pleasure and herewith send you a copy of it.*
 - ii) *"1809. Among the most extraordinary events of this year was the renewal of the friendship and intercourse between Mr. John Adams and Mr. Jefferson, the two ex-presidents of the United States. They met for the first time in the Congress of 1775. Their principles of liberty, their ardent attachment to their country... being exactly the same, they were strongly attracted to each other and became personal as well as political friends... A difference of opinion upon the objects and issue of the French Revolution separated them during the years in which that great event interested and divided the American people. The predominance of the party which favored the French cause threw Mr. Adams out of the*

Chair of the United States in the year 1800 and placed Mr. Jefferson there in his stead. The former retired with resignation and dignity to his seat at Quincy, where he spent the evening of his life in literary and philosophical pursuits, surrounded by an amiable family and a few old and affectionate friends. The latter resigned the Chair of the United States in the year 1808, sick of the cares and disgusted with the intrigues of public life, and retired to his seat at Monticello, in Virginia, where he spent the remainder of his days in the cultivation of a large farm agreeably to the new system of husbandry. In the month of November 1809 [a month after this letter was written], Mr. Adams addressed a short letter to his friend Mr. Jefferson in which he congratulated him upon his escape to the shades of retirement and domestic happiness, and concluded it with assurances of his regard and good wishes for his welfare. This letter did great honor to Mr. Adams. It discovered a magnanimity known only to great minds. Mr. Jefferson replied to this letter and reciprocated expressions of regard and esteem. These letters were followed by a correspondence of several years in which they mutually reviewed the scenes of business in which they had been engaged, and candidly acknowledged to each other all the errors of opinion and conduct into which they had fallen during the time they filled the same station in the service of their country. Many precious aphorisms [truths], the result of observation, experience, and profound reflection, it is said, are contained in these letters. It is to be hoped the world will be favored with a sight of them... These gentlemen sunk into the grave nearly at the same time, full of years and rich in the gratitude and praises of their country."...²

- p) The accuracy and future fulfillment of several parts of this dream are absolutely astounding.

- q) When Rush wrote down this dream in his letter, Jefferson and Adams were still opponents; none of what was described had begun to come to pass, nor did it seem likely that it ever would.
 - r) But as prophesied in the dream, they did again become close friends, and there did indeed follow the "correspondence of several years" described in the dream.
 - s) Furthermore, the "world was favored with a sight of the letters" as entire volumes containing the writings between the two in their latter years were eventually published.
 - t) Interestingly, seventeen years after this dream, both did "sink into the grave nearly at the same time," as the two died within three hours of each other on July 4, 1826-the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.
- 7) **SLIDE** Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God
- a) We will bear God's likeness
 - b) People are always looking at babies and saying, "You look like...."
 - c) People will say to us, "I recognize you. I know who you are. You are a Christian, a co-heir with Jesus, a son/daughter of the Living God."
- 8) Patience is needed because some of us do not respond immediately to correction, being rebuked, or encouragement
- 9) Think of the amount of patience Jesus has shown to each of us
- C) **SLIDE** Careful Instruction or Sound Doctrine
- 1) Not our beliefs or man's doctrine
 - 2) Not what is the current standard around us
 - 3) Not what we think is sound doctrine
 - 4) For example
 - 5) **SLIDE John 5:24 (NLT)** "I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

- 6) **SLIDE** There are those who teach this verse as if it read: *I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.*
- 7) In other words, if listen to Jesus' message and believe in God, you will be saved
- 8) That is not what Jesus said.
- 9) **SLIDE John 5:24 (NLT)** "I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.
- 10) Jesus tells us that we have to believe in God Who sent Jesus if we are to have eternal life
- 11) Not just any god, but God Who sent Jesus to us
- 12) We are not here to tickle each other's ears
- 13) We are not here to pat each other on the back and commiserate with each other
- 14) No, we are here to sharpen each other, to encourage each other to preach the truth in season and out of season with Great patience and with sound doctrine

D) Baptism

- 1) We now celebrate this truth
- 2) Scout and Sawyer have believed in God Who sent Jesus Christ to us and to them
- 3) They have accepted Jesus and now want to be baptized.