

2 Timothy Chapter 4 verses:1-8

Preach the Word!

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, I give you this charge.. Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

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But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.



A very solemn moment

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, I give you this charge..

God is ever present, but you can also be aware that he is with you and with us now. This of course is brought about by the Holy Spirit.

God the Father and Jesus Christ are present.

It is creating the idea of a courtroom scene where you appear before the judge.

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, I give you this charge..

God is the final judge

The administration of judgement has been committed to Jesus

John 5:27 And *God* has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

Acts 17:31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

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, I give you this charge..

‘The living’ are those who will be alive at the time of the end.
Those already dead will not have escaped via death.

All who have ever lived must appear before him to face judgement
This is the atheist’s nightmare!

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**, I give you this charge..

He is going to appear, this time in his full glory.
His rule (kingdom) will finally be here.

This is something to seriously consider as we live in this present time.

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, **I give you this charge..**

Because of all this – in God’s holy presence – I am calling on you to respond positively to what God has planned for you.

The term ‘charge’ is a strong word!

Is this pressure or an incentive?

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.

How?: Preach means to proclaim, tell with authority, no apologies are needed.

The content of this preaching: The Word – for Timothy this meant the OT scriptures and the apostolic message . For us today it means ‘the Bible message’. No diversions or alternatives are necessary or acceptable.

Preach the Word; **be prepared in season and out of season**; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.

Ever ready to give this 'Word' to the church.

How can he always be ready?

In season – when it's convenient and people are ready to listen
Out of season –when there are difficulties and it's a difficult subject -

Acts 20:27 for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; **correct, rebuke and encourage**--with great patience and careful instruction.

This is Timothy's call to his work within the congregation.

Correct –some have got the wrong idea or practice. Put them right!

Rebuke –some have already been instructed and haven't responded and so need a 'firmer hand'.

Encourage –those walking with the Lord need encouragement too.

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--**with great patience and careful instruction.**

Great patience means he is going to need it.

How do you get it?

With a good heart attitude and by experience
(trying circumstances and people)

Careful instruction requires attention to detail, clarity and knowledge.

For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine.

Looking ahead (cf Chapter 3 'in the last days')

But this will apply to some extent in Timothy's day also.

There will be resistance to the truth!

Some people don't want to talk about 'doctrine'. Sound (healthy) doctrine can be considered to cause arguments. So for those who don't want to change they would tend to avoid such discussions.

It happens today too.

Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

This shows the true motive.

We want to please ourselves.

It's the fallen human heart problem again

John 3:19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

The desire for novelty and excitement

Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

Not content with one sound teacher, they want more of the man-pleasing kind

Micah 2:11 If a liar and deceiver comes and says, 'I will prophesy for you plenty of wine and beer,' that would be just the prophet for this people!

Jeremiah 5:31 The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?

The desire for novelty and excitement

Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

Itchy ears? Keep scratching!

Do they need reinforcement of their preferred wrong ideas to give a false assurance that what they think is the truth?

What do you think about the prosperity teaching?

A myth has no contact with reality.

They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

They stop listening to the Bible truth and go after man-made (or even demon inspired) nonsense.

1 Timothy 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

Some examples:-

2 Peter 3:4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

“ I like to think of God as”

A myth has no contact with reality.

They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Another example you may come across:-

1 Corinthians 15:12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Don't let them throw you! Steady!
Sober-minded in both senses

No need to panic - God is still in charge!

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

But you, keep your head in all situations, **endure hardship**, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

He doesn't promise everything will be easy going.

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace.

In the world you will have tribulation.

But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, **do the work of an evangelist**, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

This is aimed at Timothy's work with non-Christians.
He needed encouraging too.

What is special about an evangelist's work?
Love the lost. Have an appropriate message and approach.

Peter 3:15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

Duties!

But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, **discharge all the duties of your ministry.**

There are some solemn responsibilities to be carried out.

There may be many reasons why some ministries are unfulfilled and each of these must be dealt with:

- Fear
- Unbelief
- The cares of the world
- The fear of man
- Criticism and discouragement
- Besetting sin

Discharge – means to complete fully what was required

**For I am already being poured out like a drink offering,
and the time has come for my departure.**

He's been in similar situations before:-

2 Corinthians 1:8=9 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

At his 1st trial awaiting sentence:

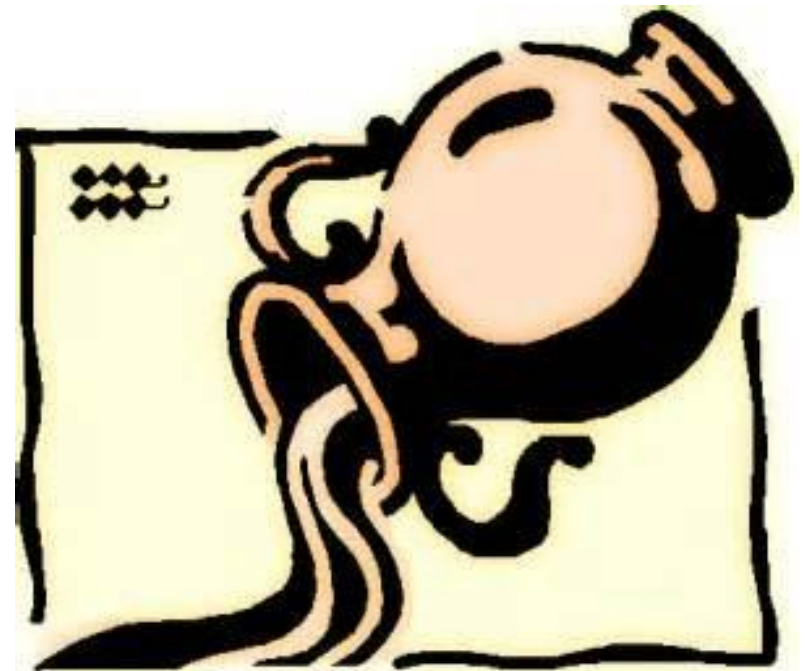
Philippians 1:23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

**For I am already being poured out like a drink offering,
and the time has come for my departure.**

But now it looks like the end.

He uses the language of the temple sacrifices.

The flask is being emptied!
- worship in this world is nearly finished.



**For I am already being poured out like a drink offering,
and the time has come for my departure.**

He views his death as the beginning of a new journey!

That's what faith in God does.

1 Corinthians 15:54-55 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."
"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

A battle worth the effort

Faith isn't passive, it acts and deals with opposition.

Read Paul's life story as a believer



I have fought the good fight, **I have finished the race**, I have kept the faith.

It wasn't a sprint, but a marathon!

Living for the Lord is likened to a race
But it's not about speed or competition
against others



I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

The most important thing of all
His faith is intact and he has remained true to it to
the end. And the body of teaching has been
preserved and passed on.

WE could also say that the faith had kept him!



Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day

There was an accumulated treasure to collect

Cf. no moth, rust or thief can damage it.
It is totally secure and damage-proof.

Most rewards are for later rather than now.



A glorious victory

Now there is in store for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day

He compares this to an athlete's laurel wreath which fades

There are rewards earned for righteous living but it is all of grace.

It is not the same word for a royal crown

1 Corinthians 9:25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.



Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day

The Lord (Jesus) will be the judge
He is absolutely fair in his judgements

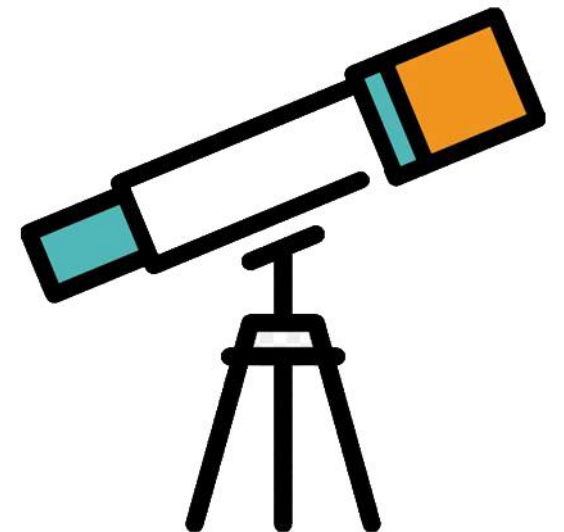
Matthew 10:42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous Judge, **will award to me on that day**

The presentation day is still to come.

At the end of this age.

Paul's focus is now beyond our world and time



--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

This is not just for the 'top athletes' but for all believers who are characterised by their desire to live for and to see the coming King.

This is a promise for Timothy after Paul has gone and for us too.