



# Sermon, Sunday November 14, 2021

## "Fully carry out the ministry God has given you"

**SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 4:1-8** <sup>1</sup> In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: <sup>2</sup> proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. <sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. <sup>6</sup> As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

### Introduction: Why We Need the Word of the Lord

The sermons of the past two weeks considered the benefits of the Lord's Word, our attitude toward the Word, and the blessed people described in the Psalms. In conclusion, we talked about how precious the Word of the Lord is and how it can enrich our lives.

What the Lord has spoken to us is not abstract or out of touch with the reality of our lives. The word of the Lord has a direct impact on our lives. Therefore, we can experience the abundance of our lives, the wisdom of the Lord, the true truth, and the joy of salvation through the grace of the Lord's Word.

In general, New Testament scholars classify 2 Timothy as a pastoral epistle. As such, 2 Timothy is concerned with the practical Christian life. As Christians, we must live in faith and righteousness, overcome the temptations of the world and the difficulties of life, and bear abundant fruit.

After all, we must meditate on the word of the Lord day and night in order to live a Christian life. So, how can we live a Christian life?

### Body: The mission the Lord has given us, the reason we need to fulfill the mission, and what we need to prepare

#### 1. Jesus' command

Jesus said to his disciples: "**I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.**"(Matthew 5:18)

Also, 1 John 2:14 says: "**I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one**" So the Apostle Paul exhorts Timothy to preach the word in today's 2 Timothy 4:2. Christians must listen and apply the Word, learn and be convinced of the Word, and preach the Word. Then, why should we preach the word of the Lord? There are three reasons.



## **2. Why we should strive to preach the Word**

**First, all human being will stand before the judgment of Christ.** 2 Timothy 4:1 says: “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you:”

Consider the time of judgment we will face. Then what will we hear from the Lord? Will we be praised by the Lord for being good and faithful servants to the Lord? Or will we be rebuked as an evil and lazy servant by the Lord?

If we live with a proper awareness of the judgment seat we will stand in at the end of the day in our present life, our life will be more changed than it is now. Then, what is the second reason to preach the word of the Lord to the world?

### **The second reason is that we experience amazing fruits when we preach the word of the Lord.**

Hebrews 4:12 says: “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” And 2 Timothy 2:9 says: “for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.” We hope that all of us will experience the joy that comes from preaching the Word. We cling to the world, but the Word of the Lord gives us freedom. So, what is the third reason to preach the word of the Lord?

**The third reason is the greed and selfishness of the world we live in.** When we live without knowing the Lord, people live according to their individual desires, and they are more interested in things that satisfy our flesh than the Word of the Lord. Ultimately, these people depend on the knowledge of the world. In the end, this road leads us to death. Also, our life without the Lord, knowledge of the world cannot give us full salvation and life in the end.

Then, what do we need to prepare to spread the word well?

## **3. Things we need to prepare to preach the Word well**

**The first is to use our time to read and meditate on the Word.** 2 Timothy 2:15 says: “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

In order to properly discern the Word and share it with others, we must spend a lot of time reading and meditating on the Word. Moses spoke about the blessings of living according to the Word in Joshua 1:8. “**Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.**”

**Second, what we must prepare to preach the Word well is patience.** That is why the Bible always exhorts us to be patient. King Solomon says in Ecclesiastes 11:5-6: “As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things. Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.” Also, book of James speaks of perseverance. “**Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.**”(James 5:7)

**Lastly, what we need to prepare to preach the Word well is to act with a sober heart in all things.** This means that we must be able to objectively judge the things around us with sensible wisdom. We need this habit and attitude in everything we do.



In the history of Christianity, the church has had a great impact on the world when it is true to the Word and essence of the Lord, not when it is after secular power and the ways of the world.

In this way, when we strive to live according to the truth and will of the Lord, and when we strive to proclaim the truth of God to the world, the church is filled with the glory of God. That is why 2 Timothy chapter 4 verses 5 commands us to be sober in all things, endure hardships, and do the work of evangelists. It also says that it is our duty as Christians.

### **Conclusion: We hope that we will carry out the mission the Lord has given us.**

Now let's summarize today's sermon. Today's text **2 Timothy 4:3-4** says: "**For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths.**"

This verse shows the process of man's fall. So we must be spiritually awake. To do this, we must not forget the time of judgment before the Lord. Also, we must not doubt the power of the Word. Furthermore, we must be able to deal with the temptations and corruptions of the world with discernment. Therefore, we need to be more patient and sober. At that time, we are given the amazing fruit of the Word. We pray such blessings will be with our life.