

II Timothy, Sermon #30

II Timothy 4 – These are the last words of the apostle Paul and he wrote them to a pastor by the name of Timothy.

- There was a close relationship between these two men.
- The apostle Paul said, “For I have no man like minded, who will naturally genuinely care for your state” (Phil. 2:20).

Timothy, preach the Word:

- Then he was given a prophecy by God that there is a time coming when church people will not endure the Word of God.
- So what was Timothy to do? Worry and fret about the trouble coming?
- God tells him what to do in vs. 5.

I’ve entitled today’s message “Fulfill Your Ministry”

We have a ministry to fulfill—everyone of us.

Let us stand for the reading of God’s Holy Word.

II Timothy 4:2-5

Let us pray

You may be seated

Fulfill Your Ministry

The apostle Paul is nearing the end of his life—His epitaph, we will look at next week (vs. 6-8).

God says through Paul a few final words of encouragement to, “Fulfill your ministry, Timothy, as I have done mine.” – Vs. 7

Regarding the Church – The first word of encouragement was to “**Watch thou in all things**” (vs. 5).

This word does not imply watchfulness like a cat watching a bird. It means to be **sober**—literally means to abstain from wine.

- Be sober in all things – literally means to be free of intoxicants, therefore level-headed, well-balanced, and in control -- self control – Fruit of the Spirit.
- This is a very general statement regarding life
- Keep our noses clean/ to be discreet in all things that we do

In the midst of a changing world, changing churches, and even a changing gospel—we must remain committed to the changeless truth of the Word of God.

The faithful preacher refuses to compromise, refuses to be a people-pleaser.

- Many preachers are erratic and trendy and they flip-flop, dependent on the mind of the mob.
- We need men anchored to the Word and totally steadfast on the Scripture.

He was to be a church leader that was rooted, steady and stable.

- We are to be balanced, solid.

Now, what does this tell us—as we find ourselves in the midst of the times and culture of verses 3 and 4?

Know our priorities:

- Be soul winners (Gospel).
- Pour into others (Discipleship).
- Teach and Train.

We are to be faithful to this labor of love.

The Bible is the basis for all such ministry.

2. The second encouragement was to “Endure afflictions, hardships”

- To suffer, be afflicted and not quit, not be crushed and give up, but to undergo the stress, the heartache, pressure, all that comes with ministering to people.
- The apostle Paul warned that Timothy would suffer hardships for preaching and living the Word of God.

Many of Timothy’s sufferings would come from the “religious crowd” that did not want to hear the truth.

A minister who is faithful will face difficulties.

- No ministry of any value is painless. I don’t wish the ministry upon anyone.
- I’m always amazed at young preachers who say, “I’m looking for a church that has no problems.”
- The notion that ministry can be effective and without trouble is a lie.

Faithfulness and hardship will go hand in hand—II Timothy 3:12

The cost of enduring, of being faithful is to suffer trouble (2:9).

II Corinthians 11:23-28, *“Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths off.*

- *Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.*
- *Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;*
- *In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;*
- *In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.*
- *Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.*

The weight of the ministry; unless you have been a pastor, you cannot understand it

- There is no such thing as a faithful ministry that is not costly.
- A painless ministry is a shallow and fruitless ministry.

Let me tell you what came to pass—even in Timothy’s life.

Hebrews 13:23, “*Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty.*”

- That means that Timothy was imprisoned; he was jailed.
- Jesus promised tribulation – but He said, “Be of good cheer.”

God encourages us to endure/to carry on.

3. The third encouragement was to “Do the work of an evangelist” (vs. 5).

God does not call Timothy an evangelist but rather calls him to do the work of an evangelist.

God has given special men to the church as evangelists.

- The only person specifically called an evangelist in the New Testament is Philip (Acts 21:8; Eph. 4:11).
- This was not Timothy – He was a pastor, yet he was to do the work of an evangelist (soul-winning responsibility)—don’t forget the unsaved.

Not every Christian has the same gifts, but every Christian can share the same burden and proclaim the same saving message.

This is in relation to evangelists but also in relation to the call of every Christian to witness for Christ and of the responsibility to give the Gospel. We are all to be active in this.

In other words, proclaiming the Gospel of salvation was an important part of Timothy's ministry.

- As he preached, taught, and pastored the believers, he also was to confront the lost with their need of a Savior.

The purpose of evangelization is to carefully but simply help unbelievers become aware of their sinfulness and to proclaim Jesus Christ as the only Savior.

This statement would remind Timothy that all of his ministry must have soul-winning at its heart—should keep the lost souls in mind, be soul conscious.

★ This burden for the lost should be a part of every believer's life.

Acts 20 gives us a description of a balanced ministry.

Acts 20:17-21

This is saying to pastors and church people, reach out beyond your comfort zone, to be active—planting seeds.

4. The summation statement of these five verses—make full proof of thy ministry: “Fulfill your ministry”—fully accomplish it/to carry out fully

Do it all, all your life, to the very end

All your might, all your life, not half of your life—Gideon, David, Solomon did that.

Be a Joshua, Daniel, Paul.

Paul was at the end of his life. Timothy was just beginning.

The goal: Fulfill our ministry

Timothy was to fulfill the unique ministry given to him by the Lord.

- This carries the idea of giving full measure and bringing to completion.
- “Make full proof” means “fulfill whatever God wants us to do.”

II Corinthians 6:1-7

- Be sober
- Be enduring
- Be soul conscious

Fulfill your ministry.

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Every eye closed

Lost heart in the ministry

Wearied and faint in your minds.

Lift up your eyes to Jesus—looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith,
Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross.

Let us run the race that is set before us.

Let us not look for an escape or an easier life, but remain steadfast, stable, and enduring.

Gospel