

2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:1-8 (Preach the Gospel At All Times)

- Opening Comments – Life’s Demarcation Points
- Changes – Reset
- Prayer
- Years ago, I got discouraged 1 day when I was trying to recall scripture.
- I had some scripture in my head, but I couldn’t recall,
- Where it came from and vice versa, so I decided to sit down,
- And write down all the scripture that I could recall.
- If you listen to me recall scripture,
- You might notice that it might come from the KJV, the NIV, or the ESV.
- And sometimes a combination of the different versions.
- Anyways, I jotted the scriptures and where they came from,
- On a piece of paper of paper, memorizing them as such.
- Most of the memorization occurred on my daily walks.
- And as time has gone by, I have added to the list.
- And every night before I go to bed, I do a section of my verses.
- I do this because I truly have a need to keep God’s word hid in my heart.
- Psalm 119:11, (Thy word ...) Most of the time it does stop me from sinning.
- And in cases of weakness, where I fail, and sin intentionally....
- The Holy Spirit’s work of convicting me of my sins is a much easier task,
- As most of the time I am aware of what I did wrong & where I went south.
- So, I think it’s important that we become more familiar with scripture.
- And for sure, I believe that everyone who calls themselves a child of God,
- Needs to have the following verses close to their hearts.
- And have a firm understanding of what they mean.
- **Hebrews 4:12 says, ¹² For the word of God is quick and powerful, sharper than a two edged sword, penetrating and dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and the attitudes of the heart.**
- The Word of God is written by God, The Holy Spirit, Himself.
- It is all truth, and not to be tampered with in any way.
- Nothing can be added or subtracted.
- The Bible tells us that anyone who does that will be accursed.
- Today’s text is 4:1-8, but I am going to start at 3:14
- I have most of this memorized, as these are so important.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

4 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:

² Preach the word; in and out of season: correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers who will say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. ⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. ⁸ 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 loved his appearing.

- In a way, this is a very touching scripture that Paul had written,
- As this scripture contained some personal notes and exhortation.
- Timothy was like a son in the faith to Paul.
- And when you read Paul's letters to Timothy, his affection is apparent,
- And we can see the support, and the confidence he placed in Timothy.
- But Paul, again, was not just an apostle, but he was also an Elder/Pastor,
- So he went back to the very basics,
- And he starts this chapter with, **I give you this charge.**
- The language is clear and emphatic.
- It's called an imperative.
- This is an order to be followed.
- Usually, in a church, that charge is reserved for people,

- Who are entering church leadership as a Deacon or an Elder,
- Or for one being sent out into the field to do mission work.
- So Paul charged Timothy before God, who judges the living and the dead.
- And God is going to judge us all.
- He told Timothy not to lose sight,
- And not be influenced, by what is going around him.
- He was telling Timothy, and us as well,
- That he was going to have to give an account in the end,
- And to be steadfast in that.
- God is going to judge those who have died, and those who are yet alive.
- He charged Timothy to preach the word.
- I have to admit that at times, as a Shepherd,
- I have often felt a disconcerting level of discouragement,
- When sharing the gospel, stressing the need for a personal Savior,
- And the great protection that it affords,
- Not even counting the eternal joy that it will bring to all who receive it.
- But as time has gone by, and thinking about my own stubbornness,
- And my long time affliction of trying to carry the world on my shoulders,
- I realized that the only thing that I can do is preach the gospel.
- I can only sow the seeds by preaching the beautiful gospel of Jesus Christ.
- And then it is up to the Holy Spirit to do the convicting that only He can do.
- And each and every one of us can and should do the very same thing.
- Again, we should preach the gospel at all times and if necessary, use words.
- If we follow the example of Jesus Christ, we will see a reflection
- Of Him in the mirror of our own lives, and then we are more apt
- To see the working of the Holy Spirit in the unconverted hearts.
- How we live is much more effective than any sermon we can give. (Rich-HS)
- And how we live it is more relevant today, than at any other time.
- With all the information and the temptations barreling down at us,
- From the Information highway, in this digital age,
- The example that we set, line upon line, precept upon precept,
- Little by little, and in every interaction that we have,
- Whether with someone we know well,
- Or a stranger that appears in our lives,
- We should live the way the Bible says, and absolutely no differently.
- (Maria – couch Conversation)

- So here we hear Paul was giving Timothy a refresher course,
- On just how critical it was for him to preach the Word.
- He said to be instant,
- To be immediate,
- To preach the word.
- In season and out of season, in other words, at all times.
- There have always been, and even more so today, so many different things,
- Different philosophies, doctrine, religions, movements,
- And ideas that rise up within the family of man.
- Scripture reminds us the imaginations of men's hearts is evil continuing,
- Of making many books there is no end.
- The bible reminds us that we should cast down man's imaginations,
- And every thought that exalts itself against the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- Paul is talking about false doctrine.
- He is imprinting on Timothy's heart the importance of preaching the gospel,
- No matter what happens, no matter what arises out of the mouths of men,
- He wants us to read and use the bible, to preach the word.
- Please remember what I told you what Pastor Bob had often said.
- Please don't take my word for anything I say, Look it up for yourself.
- The bible is the unfettered and perfect word of God,
- It is the hallmark,----- It is the benchmark,
- It is cornerstone of our foundation
- He is reminding Timothy to reprove, rebuke, and exhort,
- With all longsuffering and doctrine
- We can think of this in church leadership...
- Though it is difficult, the Elders are called to be that vessel
- That is to show correction, and to give direction.
- And at other times to be called to be the recipients of rebuke & correction.
- If we see someone who needs correction, a rebuke, or a correction,
- What is our responsibility?
- Even though we expect others to examine themselves, and us as well,
- Sometimes, someone needs to have the courage to say something,
- To speak to that person one on one.
- So many times, I can remember myself talking to someone,
- About things that I had said, things that I had done, or was about to do,
- And that brother or sister pointing out where I was going astray

- In my younger immature days, it hurt, and I felt offended.
- But as the times and turns of life added up, I began to mature in the Lord,
- And the appreciation of the correction and redirection was
- Not only well accepted, but it was greatly appreciated.
- Sometimes in our own lives, we cannot see the forest through the trees.
- So when it comes to others, we need to be bold.
- It might not be accepted with the intent it was given immediately,
- But it is our duty to do what is right,
- And regardless as to our level of courage,
- We have the biblical responsibility to rebuke and correct, or exhort.
- This can come from others, but it can also come from the pulpit,
- Or from our individual the reading of the word.
- How many times have we read the word of God,
- And then got the shivers because we can see the error of our ways?
- It could come from Church Leadership, or from our family or our spouses
- **³ For the time will come when people 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. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.**
- Do we know what our itching ears are?
- What are we susceptible to that would lead us astray?
- But under the guise of sound doctrine, do we know ourselves well enough
- To know where we want to give ourselves too much liberty,
- That could lead us back to the broader path,
- Instead of the narrow gate.
- It's a warning that is being given here.
- Jesus, many times, in the NT, reminded us to watch. (Ex. Matthew 26:35)
- The parable of the 5 wives and the 5 foolish virgins,
- Gives us a warning to be on guard.
- The five that were wise were watching – They made preparations
- They were careful – They were prudent, and
- They stored up for the day the bridegroom was to come.
- We in turn are to watch in all things,
- And to endure the afflictions that we encounter
- And we need to be long-suffering.
- In a Spirit of humility, I will say this.

- Truthfully pointing out that I fall so short in so many ways,
- Long suffering has always been one of my spiritual gifts.
- I have withstood many very difficult situations and people for a long time.
- And though I am often chided on my sometimes lack of patience,
- Through many difficult times I have exhibited close to the patience of Job.
- Long suffering can be unfair treatment, betrayal, illness, or caring for others
- It means for suffering for a long time.
- Long suffering is not pleasing to the flesh,
- But it brings on humility – something we all need to exhibit.
- Longsuffering could be waiting for something that we expect:
- A promotion, A tough situation coming to a conclusion,
- A family member coming to Christ that we long for.
- God wants us to endure those things,
- And to the work of an evangelist, discharging all duties of your ministry.
- If we want to serve God,
- We need to prepare our soul for temptation
- If we truly want to be like Christ, then we must prepare ourselves,
- To endure, a measure of what He endured Himself.
- Do we think that because we are Christians, we can escape,
- The afflictions that are in this world?
- For those of who have chosen to follow Christ,
- We have discovered that we will endure exactly the opposite.
- Becoming a Christian raises the bar and brings us onto the battleground.
- We will all endure afflictions -That's what Paul was telling Timothy
- Paul was telling him to be ready, because he was leaving
- Paul had fought the good fight, he had finished the race, had kept the faith,
- And now, it was Timothy's responsibility to do and to teach the same,
- And the crown was waiting
- Sometimes we think that something is so far away
- And might never been attainable
- Like a vacation – find a loving spouse – retirement – some awaiting joy,
- But it's not really all that long that we will wait.
- My favorite place in the world is Acadia National Park
- One time we climbed a series of mountains, and it seemed,
- Like it was taking forever to get the top of the mountain.

- We see how far it is away, and then we walk on the trail,
- Sometimes the trail is obstructed by the trees for awhile,
- AS we walk on a winding stretch,
- And then our destination comes into view,
- And we recognize that we are actually getting closer
- We get a glimpse of our destination.
- And eventually, we get there.
- And sometimes we can compare that to our spiritual life.
- There are times in our lives when we catch glimpses of eternity.
- It could be the passing or the illness of a family member,
- Or it could be that we sense that our bodies are aging.
- It's a time when we realize that our own mortality is fragile.
- That might be what Paul was going through at this time.
- He knew that his time was drawing near,
- And he knew by faith, of where he was going
- He knew that a crown of righteousness was awaiting him
- A crown that he could/would one day lay at the feet of Jesus Christ.
- And that same prize is waiting for all of us to attain.
- It's something that we should strive for everyday of our lives.
- Preach the gospel at all times – It's our responsibility to share the message.
- It's for each one of us to finish the race, to fight the good fight,
- And to keep the faith.
- Maybe today is a new point of demarcation in our spiritual lives.
- A time to correct our position, or more drastically, if necessary,
- To push the reset button.
- Closing Prayer