

J.J.

## PREACH THE WORD 2 Timothy 4:1-4

*2 Timothy 4:1 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, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the word; be prepared in season 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 to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.*

### INTRODUCTION :

A wife was waking up her husband in order to go to church. The husband said, “I don’t feel like going to church today.” The wife said, “We have to go.” But the husband said, “People don’t like me there.” But the wife insisted that they have to go. So the husband said to the wife, “Give me three good reasons why we have to go to church today.” The wife replied, “First, it’s the Lord’s Day, we need to go to church. Second, our friends are there and we can help serve others. And third, YOU are the pastor of the church.”

### BACKGROUND ON 2<sup>ND</sup> TIMOTHY

- Last letter of Paul around AD 67
- Giving instructions to a young pastor tasked to minister to a church during difficult times

### What were the difficulties?

1. Persecutions.
  - There was a fire in Rome that almost wiped out the entire city.
    - Nero the Roman emperor was cracking down on Christians. Remember, he’s a madman.
    - Killed his own mother and wife.
  - Rumours had it that he started the fire himself to rebuild Rome
  - To squash the rumours he blamed the Christians – they were unpopular during those days.
  - He persecuted them. Sewn on wild animals and Killed by dogs. Made as human torches in their banquets. Dragged by chariots for two days until bones were showing. Hang upside down so they will remain conscious while they are being skinned alive, then they will throw the skin in front of him to the fire or animals.

**This is the reason why Paul had to encourage Timothy and remind him why he is in that position.**

*2 Timothy 4:5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.*

**SOLDIERS:** There is one thing that Christians are forgetting. When you became a Christian, you are called to be a soldier. Yes, sometimes, the church is called a hospital where sick people need to go. But if you see the letters of Paul, Christians are called to be soldiers.

And as soldiers, we are called to fight even if the going gets tough. To expect sometimes that we will get hurt or we will be persecuted.

### **This is the reason why Paul wrote this in 1 Timothy**

*1 Timothy 1:18 Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well,*

Remember this is Paul's last letter before he was beheaded.

*2 Timothy 4: 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, I have kept the faith*

**But Christians nowadays, choose a church based on the music singing, if the preacher is entertaining or makes them feel good or it's comfortable for them instead of how can I be used to fight the good fight.**

**So when you're listening to this sermon, imagine yourself to be a soldier of Christ.**

**Note :** Walang lelembot lelembot na Kristyano! (say to the person beside you...huwag kang lelembot-lelembot) REMEMBER THE FIRST CHRISTIANS!

**PREACH THE WORD :** The Calling (who called the preacher to preach), The Command (How the preachers should preach) The Consequences (Why the preacher should preach)

#### **I. THE CALLING (Who called the preacher to preach)**

**Quote :** "The work of preaching is the highest and greatest and most glorious calling to which anyone can ever be called." Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones

**Why is it the highest calling?**

- **The one who called is the Highest.**

*2 Timothy 4:1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,*

**Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself has called us to preach. God, the highest has called us to preach. So to be called to preach is the highest privilege.**

**Illustration :** There was an owner of a multi-billion dollar company in the U.S. whose company was losing market share. If the business continue to slide, they may have to lay off hundreds of people. But there was one deal in Singapore that they need to close and when they get this deal, it will save jobs and put the company in the right trajectory for a long long time. But it needed a special skill that only one person in the company has and that person was an engineer who will be explain to the potential customer the offering. So on Monday, the owner of the company called him and gave him the task to fly with him to Singapore and meet with the client the following day, Tuesday. He then again reiterated that the company needs this deal in order to save hundreds of jobs in the company. When the engineer heard this, he said, "I can't go because my immediate manager gave me a deadline that I need to forward to him on Wednesday."

This sounded ridiculous but we have to remember the one who called us is the owner of the universe.

### **How was God first introduced in Genesis 1**

*Genesis 1 : 1 In the beginning God....*

**Etymology : God “Elohim” literally means, the most God or God Most High.**

This means, He is the highest... no one is higher than Him...no one is greater than Him... no one is more powerful than Him and He is the one who created everything and gave everything...

**I believe the reason why people treat church as an option every Sunday is they forget the one who called to worship and serve Him... IF PEOPLE REALLY KNOW WHO IS THE ONE THEY ARE SERVING THEY WILL BE IN CHURCH AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE EVERY SUNDAY. Because it's a privilege to be in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus – THE MOST HIGH!**

**Illustration :** Someone once wrote and asked Emily Post, the etiquette expert of another generation, "What is the correct procedure when one is invited to the White House but has a previous engagement?" Replied Post, "An invitation to dine at the White House is a command, and it automatically cancels any other engagement."

**The invitation to go to church in order to hear God's Word or the invitation to preach or to share the Gospel...is not a option. It's a command and it should be of the highest priority because IT IS GOD HIMSELF WHO GAVE THE INVITE.**

- **The urgency is the highest.**

*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,*

**Note :** Did Paul write to Timothy "In the presence of God and Christ Jesus who saved us..."? No. He wrote, *who will judge the living and the dead,*

**Remember, our Lord Jesus Christ came the first time in order to save us. The next time He comes back again, He will come to judge mankind.**

**This is the reason why we are called to preach, specially the good news.**

**Let's look at verse 5 again**

*2 Timothy 4:5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.*

**Because when people are saved, it's not only about people spending eternity in heaven but people being saved from God's wrath.**

*1 Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.*

**That's why Paul wrote :**

*and in view of his appearing and his kingdom,*

**In short, Paul is saying that anytime, our Lord Jesus Christ will come back that's why we need to preach the Gospel in order to save people from the coming wrath of God.**

**How will Jesus come back again the next time? Let's see from the Bible :**

The first time Jesus came on earth, he was gentle innocent baby and grew up healing and saving people and suffered and died on the cross in the hands of men. Then He rose up from the dead after 3 days that he was buried. But let's see His Second Coming.

*Revelation 19: 11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

**The question is when will Jesus Christ come back?...ANYTIME!** No one knows the day or the hour (Matthew 24:36) and He will come like a thief in the night (Rev 16:15; Matt 24:43; 1 Thess 5:2)

**That’s why D.L. Moody said :**

*“I never preach a sermon without thinking that possibly the Lord may come before I preach another.”*

**That’s why Paul said,**

*2 Timothy 4:1 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, I give you this charge:*

**In the KJV, that was the first thing that was said.**

*2 Timothy 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Etymology :** charge “diamartyromai” 2 words “dia” “martyreo” from “martyr” where we get the word “martyr” - it means to testify no matter what the cost is.

**In short, it means, WHATEVER HAPPENS EVEN AT THE COST OF DEATH OR BEING PERSECUTED, TESTIFY TO WHAT JESUS CHRIST HAS DONE ON THE CROSS!!!**

## **II. THE COMMAND (How the preacher should preach)**

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

**We have to remember that the Greek language is a very precise language.**

**For example :** Love has several words in Greek – eros, phileo, storge and agape

**The same with the word “Preach”**

It has five words in Greek : Three words have the same rootword – “angelos” – where we get the Anglicized word “angel” which means messenger

**The three words are :**

Euangelizo “eu” means good... so it means, evangelize

Katanggelo – “kata” through out this means, “to spread the message” (Ikalat)

Diangello - “dia” this means “to show”

The other other word is “Laleo” – which means “to speak”

**Now the word used here is “KERRYISO”**

This means a herald – one who declares.

Now interesting with this is it comes from the word “kerux” - a kerux is the representative of the King.

**When the king wants to send a message to the people, he calls the “kerux”.** The kerux job is not only to announce the king’s message but even the sentiment of the message. He represents the King.  
<https://renner.org/article/what-does-the-word-preach-mean/#:~:text=The%20word%20%E2%80%9Cpreach%E2%80%9D%20comes%20from,or%20herald%20of%20a%20king.>

**This means the preacher in front much preach with authority...**

**Question :** How do we know that the pastor or the preacher in front is preaching with authority coming from God?

**Simple?**

*2 Preach **the word**;*

**Word : Logos**

**And what is the Word here? What’s the Context?**

**Before 2 Timothy 4:1, which we are now exposing, the last verse in 2 Timothy verse 3 is this :**

*2 Timothy 3: **16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.***

**We are not to preach anything else, except GOD’S WORD!!! And when we say, “God’s Word”, it means “Scripture” which means “graphos” THE ONE THAT IS “WRITTEN”**

**It’s because there are so many preachers and charlatans nowadays, that says, “God wants me to tell you right now....” IT NEEDS TO BE BASED ON THE WORD. IT NEEDS TO COME FROM WHAT IS “WRITTEN” WHICH IS IN THE BIBLE!!!**

**How do we preach the Word of God?**

- Make sure you are prepared.

*be prepared in season and out of season;*

**Interesting thing about the word “prepared”, in KJV, it says “be instant”...**

**Illustration:** Last night, I got hungry, so I went to my cupboard and I found “instant” noodles. Just put hot water in it, wait for 5 minutes and I’m filled again.

It’s the same with preaching, **we need to be always willing and ready to feed the people of God.**

**Biblical Illustration :** Why do we do this? Remember after Jesus rose from the dead and he talked with Peter in John 21.

He asked Peter, “do you love me?” and Peter answered, “You know that I love you.” Our Lord asked these three times and Peter always replied, “You know that I love you” And every time, the admonishment of the Lord is, “Feed my lambs. Take care of my sheep. Feed my sheep.”

**That’s the motivation of the preacher.** It’s not money. It’s not popularity. It’s because he knows Jesus loves him and he loves Jesus!

**This is what the pastor does when he preaches. We are feeding you. But what do we feed you?**

*in season and out of season;*

**The preacher must be ready to preach whether it's convenient or inconvenient for us.**

**In short, sometimes, we feed the church, Jollibee, steak, cake... s**

These are preaching like God's love, the grace of God, the mercies of God, God as provider and etc.

**But there will be times that we need to feed the people, ampalaya, okra, vegetables.** It's not all candy. Specially, if what we're preaching is not an easy thing to preach like sin, hell, the wrath of God, the second coming of Jesus Christ. We need to preach it.

- **Correct**

**Reprove** - it means to make straight again.

Specially nowadays when there are so many incorrect teachings out there.

*Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

**But how do we correct them...again, it's the Scripture... the Word of God... THIS IS THE TRUTH!**

**For example, nowadays, people say "Love is love".** They mean you can choose to love and marry whoever you want whether you are both male or both female. Before homosexuality is a sin, now it's a good thing and if you call it a sin, you are now called evil or hateful. **But what does the Bible say?** It's not "Love is love." It is written, "God is love." (1 John 4:16). **This means we get our definition of love from God. True love comes from God. And God's love is holy and pure.**

- **Rebuke**

To admonish sharply –

**Sometimes, the preacher needs to rebuke – to admonish sharply.**

**Why?** Because there are some Christians that needs to be revived!!! What do I mean by this?

**Illustration:** I'm sure you have seen this in TV shows or movies when someone is in the hospital or in an emergency situation, it shows the heartbeat in the machine. Then something suddenly happens, the person flatlines – they will bring out the defibrillator. And the paramedic or the doctor will say, "Clear" and then uses electricity to shock the heart to revive it again. I read that the defibrillator can give between 200 to 1000 volts!

There are preaching that are like that. It's doesn't warm your heart but it pinches the heart. **THAT'S GOOD!** That's the Holy Spirit talking to you.

**Illustration:** One time, we noticed that one of the church members in the Philippines suddenly stopped attending. The church was being pastored by my father-in-law. So I visited that church member and asked him why he has stopped attending. He said, in Tagalog, "It's because one Sunday, when Pastor Benny was preaching, he was targeting me about my situation." (Pinariringgan niya ako.) I told Pastor Benny about it and he was confused because he doesn't even know the situation of that church member.

Remember, when you hear preaching and it pokes your heart, that's the Holy Spirit talking to you. Don't resist it. Correct it.

- **Encourage**

**Preachers should also realize that when people go to church, they also carry with them some of the problems they have in their daily lives. And some of them wants to give up.**

**They would need to hear that God loves them, that God cares for them.**

That's why there are teaching in the Bible that says :

*1 Peter 5:7 Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.*

*Hebrews 13: 5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

**Let the word of God do the correcting, rebuking and encouraging.**

**What do I mean by this?**

**Illustration :** One time I was a guest preacher at another church and I was preaching about the Rapture. Some people were scared by it because they are not ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but there were some people who were encouraged by it.

**Our jobs as preachers is to preach God's Word. How it's heard, that's the job of the Holy Spirit using His Word.**

**That's why Paul says.**

*with great patience and careful instruction.*

**Why with great patience?** Remember, Paul is encouraging Timothy here. It's because there will be times that it seems that even though you have been preaching, no change has happened. Or sometimes there are no converts.

**Our job is to preach the Word. It's the Holy Spirit who changes the hearts.**

**Biblical Illustration :** Jeremiah was called "the weeping prophet" (Jeremiah 9:1)

**Quote from Jay Bauman of Ligonier Ministries.**

*Consider the life of Jeremiah, the prophet who lived in the final days of the southern kingdom of Judah as the nation crumbled. God sent him to give the people of Judah their last warning before He cast them out of the land. God would destroy the nation and send them into captivity under the pagan kingdom of Babylon. Jeremiah's role was to preach and warn them of their sin and idolatrous behavior. But here's the problem: No one listened. No one responded. Not even to his emotional, fervent plea for obedience to God. Jeremiah preached for forty years, and he saw no success in changing the minds of the people. They remained stubborn. Even the prophets before him had had some success, but not Jeremiah. He likely felt as if he was speaking to a brick wall.*

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/when-no-one-comes-christ>

*Careful instruction*

**This means that what our preaching should only emanate from God's Word.** This is the reason why most of the time by God's grace I preach expository preaching instead of topical – Expository is what I'm doing now, it's exposing God's word carefully, verse by verse, word by word...according to context.

**This has been happening in the Old Testament,**

*Nehemiah 8:8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.*

**Why we need to do careful instruction?**

### **III. THE CONSEQUENCES (Why the preacher should preach)**

*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.*

**Illustration :** One time, I was invited to preach in a church and they asked if I could preach only for 15 to 20 minutes. I went to the church and one of the first things that I said is that I don't do "sermonettes" and preached for 1 hour.

**I still follow the old adage of those old-time preachers.**

**Quote :** Sermonettes makes Christianettes. – John Stott

- We can watch a 1 hour TV show and scroll mindlessly in Facebook for hours but we cannot hear God's Word only for 1 hour a week?
- We like it when a basketball game goes overtime but we complain when the pastor goes overtime in his preaching?

*For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine*

**What is sound doctrine?** It's the truth coming from the Bible. We can only mature as Christians if we are fed with sound doctrine.

**Remember this quote:**

We should take notice of what Jesus did not say in the Great Commission. He did not say, "Go therefore and make converts of as many people as possible." - R.C. Sproul

We are called :

*Matthew 28: 18 All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples...*

**To make disciples means "matheteos"** - meaning learners of the Word, to be followers of Christ!

**Illustration :** I remember when I became a pastor in the late 90s (27 years now as a pastor by God's grace), the trend in the modern church where a lot of pastors attended is "church multiplication" seminars. It was every pastor's dream to have a "mega-church". (No problem with mega-church if it teaches sound doctrine.) The problem with that seminar is that in order for you to attract a lot of people in the church, you need to do marketing and address the "felt need" of the unbeliever.

**That's why there was this pastor in a megachurch that said,**

"99% of people are not bad people, they may make good choices but deep down they have a good heart."

**Now I ask you, is that doctrinal?**

What does the Bible say in Romans

*Romans 3: 10 as it is written:*

*"None is righteous, no, not one;*

*11 no one understands;*

*no one seeks for God.*

*12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;*

*no one does good,*

*not even one."*

**The Bible even says in Jeremiah 17:9**

*Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.*

**This is the same pastor who said that he doesn't preach about sin and a lot of preachers don't talk about hell simply because they are afraid to offend people.**

**Illustration :** Last Friday, one of our former church members who transferred to another city whose now attending a church there had a former pastor. She described the pastor in Tagalog, "masyadong inaalagaan yung puso ng mga tao." What she meant is, "The pastor is too careful not to hurt people's feelings when it comes to the preaching."

**The preaching is what they call "watered down"**

**Illustration :** My son told me that there are a number, not all, most of the sermons you hear nowadays are "Spiritual Ted-Talk" You know the Ted Talk series in youtube that gives you advise on relationships, motivation, psychology and other areas. It's only 20 minutes tops.

**That's why Paul said.**

*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.*

**What are itching ears?**

**Etymology :** ITCHING "TINEKO" scratch, tickle. It's a desire to only hear something pleasant.

**Example :** Now this is the reason why the prosperity Gospel "the health and wealth" gospel or "name it and claim it" Gospel grew in popularity.

I wasn't a Christian yet then but I had an officemate who said he heard this being preached to them that you just need to ask God specifically what you want and when you want it. You claim it and you will have it.

So he said, he asked specifically for a blue car (I forgot the make) on a specific month. That month came and nothing happened.

**Quote :** We live in a day of itching ears, but I have no commission from God to scratch them. – Leonard Ravenhill.

**And when preachers scratch itching ears, here's what happens :**

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

**Now let me conclude with this :**

**You might say, Pastor, this is only for preachers. I cannot preach.**

**Yes you can. Remember the five Greek words for preaching...** only kerruso is the one that heralds but the other four Greek words for preaching talks about telling other people the Good news.

Euangelizo “eu” means good... so it means, evangelize

Katanggelo – “kata” through out this means, “to spread the message” (Ikalat)

Diangelo - “dia” this means “to show”

The other other word is “Laleo” – which means “to speak”

**But how pastor?** Question : Marunong ka bang mag-tsismis ? Tsismis or gossip is spreading news about others to other people.

**So make some holy tsismis** – spread the good news of Jesus Christ to your friends and family...start with them!

**Now remember, pastors are called to “preach the Word” but all of us, are called to fulfill the Great Commission**

*Matthew 28: 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

**Last story to inspire you :**

David Livingstone, he got converted at the age of 20 but he had a heart for Africa. So he travelled 30,000 miles into the heart of Africa to preach the gospel in the 1800s. Just before his death, he said, “Build me a hut to die in. I am going home.” Meaning “going home to the Lord.” One day when they found him, he was found, he was already dead but story says, that he was on his knees when they found him dead with an open Bible with his favorite verse “Matthew 28:20” It showed that the words “I am with you always” was encircled and there he wrote, “Truly, the words of a gentleman.”

It means through all his years, he knew that our Lord was with him while he was preaching the gospel and making disciples.

You want to really know the times the Lord is with you? That’s the time when we are making disciples.

**S.G.D.**