

Preach The Word! - 2Timothy 4:1-5 - Sep.20, 2026

Let's stand and let's read the tail end of 2 Timothy 3, and the first 5 verses of chapter 4. And we are going to carry on, because there's no chapter breaks in the original text.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for [c]instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

2 Timothy 4:1-5 - *"I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."*

It's pretty clear, when you read it straight through like the letter was originally written, isn't it?

Preach the Word, preach all scripture, preach doctrine reproof, correction, righteousness.

Paul is reminding and encouraging his student or apprentice, Timothy, what the central calling of his ministry is to stay focused and not sidetracked

It is believed that this is Paul's last words of instruction and encouragement to Timothy, and his last words written from prison.

And because it is his last letter, and we are now looking at the last chapter of this letter, let's take a quick look at the beginning of his letter, and see if we can hear what the Main Drive is.

If it was my last letter, right from the start, I would want to really pinpoint the most important thing and really kind of remind Timothy AND US what this is all about

What are we doing here?

What is our faith in Jesus all about?

WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?

So WHAT should we preach?

And right from the get-go in chapter 1, and I believe it's in verses 9, 10 and 11, Paul says that we have been saved, not because of anything we did, but because of God's purpose and His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, before time even began.

And here is the big thing he says, and I mean nothing gets any bigger than this, he says that our Saviour Jesus Christ has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel, and Who gets all the glory? JESUS AND THE FATHER, THE GOSPEL. THAT'S THE BIG DEAL.

It's always the big deal.

This isn't some Hollywood fantasy movie about searching for the fountain of eternal life.

No, this is reality about the Son of God, who paid for the wages of MY sin and YOUR SIN with His death on the cross, thereby destroying death itself.

And Paul says in verse 11 of chapter 1 THIS is what I preach and teach.

So Let's open this up.....It's pretty clear in this portion of scripture that it's mostly, about preaching..... there are some other details in here, but I would like to focus our time mostly on preaching, because I believe those other details are also pointing to preaching....

So let's look at:

1. What is preaching?
2. The importance of preaching
3. What the world preaches
4. Exactly WHAT, a man of God is called to preach
5. In what circumstances should we, and will we preach
6. And ultimately what all of our preaching should be accomplishing, or pointing to...WHAT'S IT ALL FOR?

(1.) WHAT IS PREACHING?

Here is a definition.....it's the Greek word...*Kayrooso*.....

Listen to this....*TO BE A HERALD.....TO PROCLAIM LIKE A HERALD..... always, with a suggestion of formality, gravity, and an authority, which must be listened to, and obeyed*.....

That's a little bit different than just teaching isn't it?

In teaching, you are simply passing on information, like it is in a school or university setting....You want the listener to take in and remember the information.....

But preaching.... it takes some expression doesn't it.....

Whatever information you are passing on, you want to explain or express, the seriousness of the information, and when need be from the text, you wanna warn the listener, challenge the listener, encourage the listener, express the joy that you read in text.....

If our feelings were designed by God for anything, I would say the proper place to express them, is in our relationship with Him, and whatever we read and receive from His Word..... and we do this in preaching.....

We don't conjure it up.... we just express, what comes naturally....

Maybe it's just me, but when I hear someone putting on some kind of a fake or learned preaching style that's designed to grab my attention.....I'm sorry, I don't want to be mean but, it really bothers me and I think to myself..... "*Hey we didn't come here to hear from you, and be entertained by you*.....we

came here to hear from God...so just be yourself and expressed to us what God is saying".....

(2.) So let's look at **THE IMPORTANCE OF PREACHING**

a)He gives Timothy this earnest command...urging him...

2 Timothy 4:1 - "*I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead [b]at His appearing and His kingdom:*"

That's a pretty stern command.....

It's like me telling Pastor Brent every Sunday before he starts teaching and preaching the Word..... telling him.....*hey, you better preach truthfully and biblically and really solid and really sound because God is watching, and the Lord Jesus Christ is watching, and you know He's going to judge the living and the dead when He comes.... and He's coming..... so you make sure you're doing what you are called to do..... and do it well.....* I don't know how well he would receive that, but whatever.....lol

And this is important for what we are going to be looking at in a few verses.... A pastor needs to be committed to teaching and preaching in a way that PLEASES GOD.....and we'll see....he tells us, that this is preaching THROUGH, the Word of God...sincerely, studiously, and teaching it's full council, and not watering down any of God's Word just to make it more appetizing to the listener.... that's why for our English word CHARGE, Paul used the Greek word *diamartyromai*..... because it can be a legal term meaning to "testify under oath"..... in a court room, people are speaking "under an oath"..... you better be speaking the truth, and not lying.....

He's saying... You want to be able to tell the Lord when He comes to judge the living and the dead, that you taught His Word truthfully, to the best of your ability, through the aid of The Holy Spirit, without leaving any stone unturned..... and not embellishing it with a bunch of falsehoods for itching ears, and taking it all out of context..... You're going to be under oath before a God, Who can see right through you.....

James 3:1 - "*My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.*"

And this is no light charge for anyone including myself or Pastor Brent or any of the other pastors here who are teaching through God's Word or for that matter anyone who is opening up God's Word for someone, or leading a Bible study..... and the reason why it is no light charge is because we will see how it all hinges on the cross of Calvary, and the sacrifice that God The Father gave, by giving us His only begotten Son.... So this preaching of the Word is no small thing.... *God and the Lord Jesus Christ*, and the Holy Spirit are watching.....

(3.) WHAT THE WORLD PREACHES

And why we preach the Word.....to wrestle against spiritual hosts of wickedness....

2 Timothy 4:2b "*Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*"

....And verses 3 and 4 are WHY Paul is saying it is so important to use the Word to convince people and rebuke them and exhort them and be patient with them.....because there is great danger coming.....

2 Timothy 4:3-4 - “*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*”

This time is here.....

It's why many of us ended up here at a church that simply teaches through God's Word verse by verse.....

BECAUSE.....peoples own DESIRES AND FEELINGS are going to turn them away from the truth of God's Word.... Every one of us has desires and itching ears to hear what we want to hear, or what we need to hear...and if those ears don't hear the truth of God's Word, but those ears just hear some fluff that just fills the desires of the flesh and emotions, then they will gravitate to that.....UNLESS, those ears are fed the milk of the Word, and then the meat and potatoes of the Word.....

THEN..... they'll crave more of it.....

As we said, we don't make our decisions always based on our feelings, especially if those decisions contradict the Word of God.....Paul is saying.....

If you just give them WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR...they will be lost.....They NEED....CONVINCING, REBUKING, STRONG URGING.....We are stubborn, fickle, weak people in the flesh.....our spirit needs to be FED, to be strong in our convictions.....

So God says.....CHALLENGE THEM...WARN THEM... CONVICT THEM.....BECAUSE I LOVE THEM.....

Keep this verse in mind.....

John 14:6 - “*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*”

And for our purposes, let's look at...Jesus IS THE TRUTH, and there is no other truth apart from Him... and He is eternal

and unchanging..... therefore, TRUTH is eternal and unchanging.....TRUTH IS TRUTH IS TRUTH.....

I want to take a moment to look at the contrast between the Truth of God, which is eternal, unchanging Truth in His Word....

And the truth of mankind, that is changing continually.....

Example 1.....

MAN'S TRUTH....

In 1892 a Criminal Code of Canada was put into law.....

And in the law, abortion was a criminal offence.....

In 1969 that law was amended, and abortion was allowed if the pregnancy might endanger the life or health of the mother.....

Then in January 28 of 1988 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled, that the abortion restrictions were unconstitutional and they removed abortion from Canada's criminal law, so it was no longer a criminal offence..... removing all of the rights of an unborn baby, and in essence saying, you are not a human and you have no value, or meaning.....

I'm not even going to mention the various Christian denominations that support what they call the "moral choice", of a woman to have an abortion or not.....they say it's not necessarily a sin, but just an area of morality that each individual should have the freedom to choose or not choose before God.....

So do you think there are some itching ears in these churches that have heaped up for themselves teachers that teach this, and have turned them away from the truth?

Would they teach that it is not necessarily a sin, but the "moral choice" of a person before God, to have the freedom to murder or not murder another person?

NOW GOD'S TRUTH....

**Psalm 139:13-16 - “*For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother’s womb.
I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well.
My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.
Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them.*”**

God puts infinite value and meaning on these children as He is skilfully forming them in the womb, and He has a life and purpose for them.....

Example 2....

MAN’S TRUTH.....

In Canada on July 20, 2005 the Civil Marriage act came into force, allowing the lawful union of any two people, regardless of sex.... in other words, same sex marriage was put into law..... A man could marry a man and a woman can marry a woman.....

Do you think there are any itching ears out there in these churches, that have heaped up for themselves teachers that have led them astray from the truth?

GOD’S TRUTH.....

**Genesis 2:21-24 - “*And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.
And Adam said:***

***“This is now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man.”
Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be
joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”***

**The truth from THE WORD, is....ONLY a man and a woman
can ever become ONE FLESH.....**

**These are only two examples of issues that have been turned
upside down....as you know there are many many
others....gender, transgender, parental rights etc.....**

**And these aren't just ungodly beliefs from the odd individual
person here and there..... the big condemning factor is that
these are ungodly beliefs, being put into law by our
governments and by society as a whole.....**

**The world says that there is no longer TRUTH....there is only
your truth or my truth.... something isn't true in and of
itself.... it depends on the individual and their feelings or
thoughts about that thing....**

But didn't Jesus say.....I AM...THE TRUTH.....

**The world has taken the murderous evils of abortion and said
it is FOR THE GOOD of the mother.....**

**And it has taken the depravity of same sex union and
celebrated it as brave and good.....Isaiah prophesied.....**

**Isaiah 5:20 - “*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*”**

**To preach the Word, as Timothy has been charged to do, and
all pastors, including myself and especially here at Riverside
Pastor Brent..... we are called to preach against evil issues
like these, when they arise as we go through the Word.....**

**Paul says in verse 2.....*Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all
longsuffering and teaching.....* and the prayer is that the**

rebuke delivered by the Word to anyone involved in these kind of evils, would cause them to stop and be convicted and repent and change...

But through preaching The Word, the greatest changes that occur after conviction comes, is when someone experiences and finally sees, the grace of God upon them..... The Mercy, forgiveness and grace and love of God that is displayed on the cross.... for anyone who is involved in any evil.....

So there are various churches and denominations and religious organizations that claim to be apart of the Body of Christ, but they have embraced some of these evils and called evil good and good evil.....

But there are also those that avoid the more difficult doctrine and topics, and they stick to just preaching about all of the wonderful things people desire with their itching ears....

Prosperity, health, financial security, everything this world has to offer..... preaching that this is God's ultimate will for you in this life..... that you would have these things in abundance.....the focus is always on THIS LIFE....LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE NOW.....

Whereas, you don't have to search too hard in God's Word to see what His will is for you.....

1 Thessalonians 4:3a - "*For this is the will of God, your sanctification*"

My sanctification.....at all cost.....set apart for God.... consecrated to God.....purified.....moulded into the image of Christ.....THAT'S IT.....

Not out of religiosity.... but because God loves me and wants the best for me.....

And that process, as many of us know....CAN BE PAINFUL.... God disciplines us, because He LOVES US, as Sons and Daughters of the King.....

We just went through this.....

2 Timothy 3:12 - “*Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*”

The “itching ear churches” stay away from sections of scripture like this... And what are they really doing? Keeping people from THE LOVE OF A FATHER..... And it’s dangerous and damaging, and their man made sermons, distract people from finding salvation and life..... They need to learn from Paul.....

1 Corinthians 1:17 - “*For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.*”

(4&5.) So what exactly is the man of God called to preach, and in what circumstances?

2 Timothy 4:2a - “*Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season.*”

And in verse 5, WHILE PREACHING the Word, He says....

2 Timothy 4:5 - “*But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*”

So what are Timothy and all pastors meant to preach?
THE WORD.....WHAT IS THE WORD?

Guys, this part is actually quite straightforward... and I am going to let the Word of God do the talking.....

Isaiah 40:8 - “*The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.*”

God’s Word is eternal.....

There's nothing that can stand against it....

Hebrews 11:3 - *“By faith we understand that the [a]worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”*

God's Word created.....EVERYTHING.....EVERYTHING.....
so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.....translation.....EVERYTHING, was created from nothing..... but actually, not NOTHING.....well, nothing we can see with our eye, or understand, but created, BY THE WORD OF GOD.....

John 1:1-4 - *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”*

This can be confusing for some.....

So let's cut to the chase here..... because if everything seen, and unseen was created by the Word of God....

Who exactly are we talking about here that we need to be preaching?

Revelation 19:11-13 - *“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.”*

Guys....THIS IS JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR....HE....IS THE WORD.....

So as Hebrews, Isaiah, Revelation, and John say....

JESUS IS THE WORD.... And He will stand forever...and the universe was framed by Him and everything in it...and every beginning or ending of every life, and every story..... was created through Him, allowed by Him and made for Him, and consists IN HIM..... for His grand purpose.....

THIS IS WHAT WE PREACH.....

So why would people reject the truth of God, His Word... Jesus Christ.....

Jeremiah saw both sides.....

The rejection of God's Word, and the love of God's Word.....

**Jeremiah 6:10 - *"To whom shall I speak and give warning,
That they may hear?
Indeed their ear is uncircumcised,
And they cannot give heed.
Behold, the word of the Lord is a reproach to them;
They have no delight in it."***

They've got itching ears that only want to hear support and confirm what their own personal desires are.....

They're missing out on the disciplining of a God Who wants to be their Father, Who loves them, and only wants the best for them.....

But for those who are followers of Jesus Christ, and those who are called by Him.....WE LOVE IT.... you can't talk too much about Jesus around them..... you can talk all day, long about different verses of the Bible and God's promises and how He has been rebuking you, and disciplining you, and talking about the cross and the resurrection and all of the details of His coming, and the rapture....and on and on and on.....WE CAN'T GET ENOUGH.....

Jeremiah says.....

**Jeremiah 15:16 - *"Your words were found, and I ate them,
And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart;***

*For I am called by Your name,
O Lord God of hosts.”*

The words of a follower of Jesus....

But let's get to the sixth and final point here if you remember from the beginning and my list....

6. Ultimately....what all of our preaching should be accomplishing, or pointing to...WHAT'S IT ALL FOR?
These are Words from Jesus.....

Hebrews 10:5-7 - *“Therefore, when He came into the world,
He said:*

*‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,
But a body You have prepared for Me.
In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin
You had no pleasure.*

*Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—
In the volume of the book it is written of Me—
To do Your will, O God.’”*

In the volume of this book, it is written of Jesus.....

HE IS THE WORD..... and what is God's will for Him.....

We preach HIM, and the Body the Father prepared for Him, to
GIVE AS A SACRIFICE FOR US....

THAT.....IS WHAT WE PREACH!

This whole book is about Him....points to Him....and
ultimately WHO HE IS.....AND WHAT HE IS TO US.....

And it tells us the purpose for Him coming to us in the
Word.....so the purpose of ALL OUR PREACHING THE
WORD.....He explains in these verses.....

*Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,
But a body You have prepared for Me
In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin
You had no pleasure.*

**Sacrifices, rituals, rules, regulations, RELIGION...does not please or satisfy God, and does not remove our sin.....
That Body prepared for Jesus, was FOR US.....TO PAY FOR OUR SIN.....AND THIS WHOLE BOOK WAS WRITTEN FOR THAT PURPOSE....TO POINT US TO JESUS AND THE CROSS.....
Because remember....WITHOUT the removing of our sin...all this other content in the bible, is pointless for us.....**

**So someone might say.... Why does Pastor Brent share the gospel at the end of every single message?
Well..... why wouldn't he?
But for the grace of God and the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross for our sin, and His resurrection in victory..... but for this, we are all dead in our sin.... Everyone..... the whole world.....**

**He taught that last week at Stadium Sunday.....
Without the gospel of Jesus Christ and the grace of our Father, giving us His only begotten Son..... without this.....
Everything else is pointless for us and useless..... all of the preaching of the glory of God and His doctrine, and preaching the truths of Who He is, might be pertinent to Him.... But for us..... who cares about God's doctrine and the truth in His Word, if I am dead in my sin and on a one-way ticket to hell.....**

**So yeah.... Preach the Word..... Brent preachers the Word and shares the Gospel at the end of every message....
Because it is the crux of the matter, you might say... it's the central point and without it.....for us everything else is useless.... That's where that word crux comes from....THE CROSS..... the central point.... The CRUX, The Cross is at the centre of EVERYTHING.... It's the crux of the matter and the crux of human existence.....**

**So Timothy, Brent, all you pastors out there.....
PREACH THE WORD!**

Jesus Christ IS THE WORD....and He's the only hope for this world!

THE GOSPEL:

So if you're here today, or you're listening online, And all of this, preaching and teaching about God's glory and His doctrines and all that stuff, don't really mean a lot to you right now, because you are weighed down by guilt and shame.... and everything goes in one ear and out the other ear because you just want peace and forgiveness and freedom and a new start.....GO TO THE CROSS....GO TO JESUS..... God tells us in his Bible to not decorate the gospel or use fancy words so that it is more appetizing..... So we just tell you the gospel.....

That Jesus went to the cross to die and pay the price for your sin, and He rose again in victory.....and all you have to do.... IS BELIEVE.... Believe in Him, and believe that He paid for your sins on the cross....ask Him to forgive you....then receive the gift of forgiveness and new life..... He wants you to take it.....

And if you are not sure, and you're wondering if this is all made up stuff and you're just fooling yourself with all of this God stuff..... The Bible also says that the cross is foolishness to the world, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God for salvation..... so if you feel THAT... THE POWER OF IT.....if you feel that Jesus dying on the cross for your sins is a gift that you desperately need... don't ignore it.... it's the power of God directed straight to you, so take it.....

Take it right now and ask Him to forgive you....

And if you do this, don't keep it to yourself. Please come and talk to me today or one of the people that will be here for prayer up at the front or someone here at the church.... share it with them because we want to help you on this new journey..... you don't have to be embarrassed, because we have all done this..... that's why we're here.....

Let's pray.....