

Teach Me

Text: 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Power Principle:

Each of us “preaches the Word” or “our opinion” when we respond to another person’s comments or questions! We must share the Truth in Love as laity and clergy.

Here are some comments or questions others often share...

- A) “I’m thinking about leaving my spouse”.
- B) “I’m moving in with my boyfriend”.
- C) “I’m leaving the church I’ve been attending because of what the pastor said....I think I will find a ‘grace filled church’”.

Here is Paul’s “Word of Love and Truth to us”.

1. Stay focused on God’s _____, not your _____.
2. _____ not.
3. _____ your _____—Looking to _____.

August 31 & September 1, 2019

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Personal Study

Week of September 1

The apostle Paul first meets Timothy on his second missionary (Acts 16:1-3a), and as the end draws near, he urges Timothy to preach the Word of God. “Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching” (2 Timothy 4:2). A time is coming when people will no longer want to hear the truth, but instead, will have ‘itching ears’ and desire to hear what will make them feel good about themselves.

God’s Word is clear. There is coming a day when God’s wrath will be poured out on sin and rebellion. But the Good News is, God made a way through the coming flood of judgment! He sent His Son, Jesus Christ our Savior, to provide a way through...safely! Paul says, “Timothy, preach the Word” – not your opinions or theories. We may not all be preachers or teachers, but we all have some measure of influence. Are you *living* God’s Word each day?

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8

The apostle Paul is no stranger to prison. Yet, Paul utilizes every opportunity (even prison) to write words of instruction to the leaders he has left ‘in charge of the flock’ like Timothy.

1. You may feel like you’re stuck or even locked in chains at times. How can you stay focused on God’s agenda (instead of your own) during times of hardship and suffering? Write down one way you can instruct another Christ-follower from your ‘prison cell’.

Cultural Thought of Today: People don’t want to hear your opinion. They want to hear their opinion coming from your mouth.

2. What does God’s Word say about man’s heart (or opinions)? Read the following Scriptures and quietly reflect where you are. Ask: What (who) guides my heart?

Psalm 14:2-3 Jeremiah 17:9-10 Isaiah 53:6 Luke 11:31-32

During Paul’s second missionary journey, he speaks to the ‘men of Athens’ in hopes of sharing the message of Christ. In this discourse Paul says, “For God has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man He has appointed, and He proved to everyone who this is by raising Him from the dead” (Acts 17:31). Paul speaks God’s truth regardless of his audience’s status. We fear many things, and fear can be paralyzing. But at the end of the day, the only thing to fear is God. “*The fear of the Lord is true wisdom; to forsake evil is real understanding*” (Job 28:28).

3. Are you worried about your image and need others to make you feel good about yourself? It may be time to ask: (1) what fears are paralyzing me (2) what sin is keeping me from running the race – from living the truth and speaking the truth in love, and (3) why do I have push back when I receive an honest rebuke from a fellow-believer?

Re-read 2 Timothy 4:6-8 and close in a time of honest prayer and honest reflection.

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