

The Household of the Living God

Perseverance

“The Solemn Charge”

2 Timothy 4:1-8

We have a solemn call to faithful word work, not successful kingdom building.

A high view of the Bible (3:14–17) would lead to a high view of preaching (4:1–8).

I. The What – A charge from Paul to Timothy (1-2)

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead,

Think of the judgement of Christ in the light of Matthew 7:21–23; John 8:31–32; and Matthew 25:35–40.

The charge includes the confessions of “*his appearing and his kingdom*”

See Luke 20:9–18

Now that the weight of the charge is set, we see the charge in the form of 5 imperatives.

- *Be ready*
- *preach the word*
- *reprove, rebuke, and exhort* (imperatives 3-5)
 - Timothy will need to *expose* the false teachers of Ephesus along with their particular teaching
 - Timothy will *rebuke* those who will not listen to him
 - He will *exhort* those who will listen and follow the true gospel.

The final prepositional phrase modifies or gives clarity to the imperatives.

Do these imperatives *with complete patience and teaching*

II. The Why – growing disapproval of sound truth (3-5)

³ *FOR the time is coming when . . .* The command is given and here the reason is made clear.

Timothy must take a solemn oath to preaching THE word, for it will be a countercultural endeavor.

What do you suppose is the greatest allure away from faithful word work?

1. people will not endure sound teaching

2. having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,

What they are seeking is affirmation of their own passions or cravings.

1 Peter 2:11 abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

1 Peter 4:2 live the rest of your time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

3. ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths

The contrast between “truth” and “myth.”

- THE truth is the gospel.
- THE myths are speculative reinterpretations of historic truths.

Their myths were uniquely Ephesian myths. We live in a culture that has many popular myths that are baseless and devoid of truth as well.

⁵ But as for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

III. The when – until Timothy is relieved of his post to receive a crown (6-8)

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day,

God’s plan for our perseverance includes the vivid promise of reward.

and not only to [Paul] but also to all who have loved his appearing.

It seems like any religious person would love the appearing of Christ. However, there is a character who does not.

Those who love the appearing of Jesus Christ are all those who have been tenets of His kingdom, not would-be kings of their own little kingdom. Consider again Luke 20:13-18

Conclusion:

Takeaway truth: _____

Christ Jesus: _____

As a disciple of Christ, I should: _____