

HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER

ROMANS 10:14-15 & 2 TIMOTHY 4

Text: Romans 10:14-15

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¹⁴How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Introduction:

The Bible has much to say on the subject of preaching.

As a matter of fact the word or a form of that word is used 92 times in the New Testament and 102 times in the Old Testament.

First Corinthians tells us "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

Note it's not foolish preaching but the foolishness of preaching.

Someone once said, "The power that is in the gospel does not lie in the eloquence of the preacher;

otherwise men would be the converters of souls. Nor does it lie in the preacher's learning; otherwise it would consist in the wisdom of men. We might preach until our tongues rotted, till we would exhaust our lungs and die, but never a soul would be converted unless the Holy Spirit be with the Word of God to give it the power to convert the soul."

Note what Paul wrote to Timothy regarding the responsibility of preaching.

Read 2 Timothy 4

2 Timothy 4:1-5

¹I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; ²Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. ⁵But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Studying this letter from Paul to Timothy, his young son in the faith, is like treading on sacred ground.

It's the last words ever penned by Paul in Scripture.

We can only imagine what was racing through his heart as he wrote Timothy, who was going to take his place, to be faithful in the ministry.

In these verses we see nine commands regarding preachers.

- i. Preach the Word
- ii. Be instant in season, out of season
- iii. Reprove
- iv. Rebuke
- v. Exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine
- vi. Watch thou in all things
- vii. Endure afflictions
- viii. Do the work of an evangelist
- ix. Make full proof of thy ministry

1. THE SERIOUSNESS OF PREACHING (2 TIMOTHY 4:1)

2 Timothy 4:1

¹I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

A. His Compelling Responsibility – Charge before God

The aged warrior Paul sought to arm his young son in the faith with a keen sense of his weighty responsibility.

Such seriousness should be characteristic of a godly individual committed to serving Christ.

Illustration:

John Knox said, “Give me Scotland or I die.” It was said that when Knox was called to preach that he locked himself in a room and wept for days because he feared the seriousness of his calling.

The whole tone of Paul’s charge is a forward look to the second coming of Christ. Nothing will develop accountability like the pastor’s realization that he is not primarily responsible to a church, denomination, or school, but to God.

B. His Coming Evaluation – Who shall judge

The task of preaching is a task to be taken seriously because it comes under the scrutiny of the Judge's evaluation. The perfect Judge will render perfect judgment on the nature, dedication, faithfulness, and consistency of the preacher's efforts.

Then it will be seen if what he did was in fact gold, silver, and precious stones or wood, hay, and stubble. The world can push the pastor to compromise his ministry by trying to please others. But if he's mindful of the One he answers to, it will help keep him strong.

2. THE SUBSTANCE OF PREACHING (2 TIMOTHY 4:2)

2 Timothy 4:2

²Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Paul instructed Timothy to preach "The Word" the Word of God.

Why is preaching the Word the only way to preach?

- It allows God to speak rather than man
- It brings the preacher into direct contact with the mind of the Holy Spirit

- It promotes biblical literacy
- It carries ultimate authority

3. THE SCOPE OF THE PREACHER (2 TIMOTHY 4:2, 5)

2 Timothy 4:2

²Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

2 Timothy 4:5

⁵But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

A. He Is to Be Ready to Minister – Be Instant In and Out of Season

It pictures a military guard who is always at his post.

B. He Is to Expose Sin – Reprove, Rebuke

Because the preacher is to preach the Word of God the Word is:

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Someone has said, Doctrine – tells us what's right,
Reproof – tells us what is wrong, Correction – tells us

how to get right, and Instruction – tells how to stay right.

C. Exhort or Encourage With Patience but With Doctrine

Often many are passive with things that contradict sound doctrine.

Also, many are pragmatic with things that can lead to future problems.

We must remember what we read in Hebrews.

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ²Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

We all agree that sinful things must be set aside, however a preacher must consider the end results of weights as well.

Weights are often like a snowball rolling down a hill. It starts small, but grows in size and in speed, and eventually can become unstoppable and destructive.

That's why Paul then says:

C. Watch Thou in All Things

D. Endure Afflictions

No one ever said it would be easy.

- Expect suffering
- Accept suffering

E. Do the Work of an Evangelist

Evangelists proclaim of the good news.

F. Make Full Proof of Thy Ministry

This means to fulfill wholeheartedly our call or purpose.

Close:

What as a church is our responsibility?

Matthew 9:35-38

³⁵ And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. ³⁶ But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷ Then saith he unto his disciples, The

harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few; ³⁸ Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Luke 10:2-12

² Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly *is* great, but the labourers *are* few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. ³ Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves. ⁴ Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way. ⁵ And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace *be* to this house. ⁶ And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again. ⁷ And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house. ⁸ And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you: ⁹ And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. ¹⁰ But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, ¹¹ Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. ¹² But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city.

We must see the multitude scattered abroad and as sheep that have no shepherd and allow it to move us with compassion as it did the Saviour.

We must see the harvest is plenteous and the laborers are few.

We should pray that the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth laborers into His harvest.

Pray for boldness and safety because they are going forth as lambs among wolves.

Pray for their provisions to be met.

Pray that they remain faithful, and not become discouraged when the truth is rejected.