

PREACHING.

- A. This weapon of attack is related even more directly and specifically to God's Word. It is solely and exclusively the preaching of God's Word (2Tim. 4:1-4).

I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: **2** preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. **3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, **4** and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

- B. Some important things concerning 2Tim. 4:1-4:

1. The solemnity of the charge. It is given in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, in the light of the fact that Christ will judge the living and the dead and in view of His appearing in His kingdom.
2. The charge is to preach the Word. It implies the accountability of the preacher for what he preaches.
3. "In season and out of season" can mean to preach the gospel when the preacher feels like it and when he doesn't, as well as we are preach the gospel when the audience wants to hear it and when they don't.
4. It is a warning not to accommodate the desires of self-pleasing rebels who do not want to hear the truth (Isa. 55:11; Jer. 23:29; Heb. 4:12).

(Isa 55:11) So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;
It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.

(Jer 23:29) "Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?"
(Heb 4:12) For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- C. There is tremendous power in the preached Word of God. Its results are guaranteed. It will not return empty.

- D. Five things to know about preaching the gospel:

1. Preaching is a wonderful privilege.
In an age that often mocks preaching and in churches that often undervalue it, we need to guard our hearts by cultivating the right attitude towards preaching.
2. Preaching demands loyalty—to the Lord and to His people.
The Roman poet Ovid said that "every lover is a soldier." Love commits, love risks, and love sacrifices. Just so, every preacher shows his love for the Lord and his people by a brave and tested loyalty. We battle through difficulties and temptations. We stand our ground, making preaching the priority of our lives because the Lord is honored through it, as the lost are won to Christ and Christians are built up.
3. Preaching is a calling wrapped up in failure.
 - a. The Apostle Paul was misunderstood, mocked, insulted, beaten, and imprisoned for his ministry. At times, his best sermons produced the least effect. He endured intense loneliness and was deserted by some of his most trusted friends. He knew the costliness and the difficulty of preaching. "Who is sufficient for these things?" (2Cor. 2:16) is not an invitation to despair but a jolting call to gritty realism.

- b. Your preaching will fail at times... and so will you. And yet, in the midst of all of your triumphs and your tragedies, the Lord is at work for the good of hearers.
- 4. Preaching means being diligent in prayer.
The preacher needs to pray and needs the prayers of others. Preachers are in the Devil's firing-line, and he loves to pick them off with a sniper's efficient cunning. Without the shield of faith and continual prayer in the Spirit (Eph. 6:16-18), which of us can stand?

in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. **17** And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

- 5. Preaching means that sometimes you get it wrong.
 - a. We love Jesus. Even when our sermons are clumsy or dull, we are by grace trying to work out our love for the Lord to those we preach to. Preachers preach forgiveness, and they must expect forgiveness for their own failures. Ministry is hard and we fail.
 - b. We must not fail in our calling to love Jesus, though. He is the pearl of great price to our hearts. Love for Jesus—and then a deepening love for people—must be the hallmark of our ministry. If our hearers can discern that, they will discover Christ in our preaching and their delight (and ours) will continue through the years.
- E. Some scriptures concerning preaching:
 - 1. Mt. 12:41; 24:14.
(Mt 12:41) The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.
(Mt 24:14) This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.
 - 2. Mk. 1:38,39; 16:15.
(Mk 1:38-39) He said to them, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for." **39** And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.
(Mk 16:15) And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.
 - 3. Lk. 3:18.
So with many other exhortations he preached the gospel to the people.
 - 4. Ac. 8:4; 8:12; 8:35; 10:42; 17:18.
(Ac 8:4) Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.
(Ac 8:12) But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.
(Ac 8:35) Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.
(Ac 10:42) And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.
(Ac 17:18) And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. Some were saying, "What would this idle babbler wish to say?" Others, "He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,"--because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.
 - 5. Rom. 1:15; 16:25,26.
(Rom 1:15) So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.
(Rom 16:25-26) Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, **26**

but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, *leading* to obedience of faith;

6. 1Cor. 1:17; 1:21-24.

(1Cor 1:17) For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

(1Cor 1:21-24) For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. **22** For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; **23** but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, **24** but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

7. Gal. 1:8,9.

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! **9** As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

8. Col. 1:25.

Of *this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching of* the word of God,