

2 Timothy 4:1-4

Preach the Word In Season and Out of Season

Intro: The movie Chariots of fire is based upon the story of the Olympic runner Eric Liddell – Who was a devout Christian

A) Because of His faith – He refused to run on Sunday – his Sabbath, and missed running in his strongest event –

B) But went on to win a gold medal in another event – running on another day. Great movie – Classic –

1) Won 4 academy awards including best picture.

C) My favorite part of that movie centers around Liddell's Sister who was trying to persuade him to give up running to be a missionary

1) Higher Calling - Liddell response – I love – *All I Know is that God made me fast and I feel His pleasure when I run!*

D) There is something – amazing that happens in the life of a person & those around them when they are doing what **God created them to do.**

This morning as an intro to our Study I want to show you a short video clip of a guy who had a dream to do what God created him to do.

A) In Britain they have a show – similar to our American idol – it is called BGT–this was Paul Potts' first performance.

B) When he announces what he is there to do, you – see this skeptical reaction from the Judges – but they are quickly impressed.

1) Watch the reaction of the female – Judge – Wed – **Queen of Sheba** had her breath taken away – saw Solomon.

Now this morning we are looking at a passage that tells us what the Church was created by God to do!

A) When the Church is fulfilling this function – the impact on the world can be overwhelming – and we can feel His pleasure:

Read Verse 1-4

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: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 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; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

B) Paul has been writing to his young Protégé Timothy His son in the faith and in ministry!

Stay the Course!

1) Timothy is ministering in troubling times – Growing persecution – **Growing apostasy – Stay the course**

C) Timothy had been called, anointed and gifted by God to be a Pastor – to preach the Word.

1) Paul has been reminding Timothy of that Calling

CH.1:6 Stir up the gift.....not a spirit of fear.... Love and a sound mind.

V.13- Hold fast to the pattern of sound words received from Paul.

CH.2:1 Teach others – Disciple other men/

V.15 Be a diligent student of the Word in order to rightly divide the truth.

CH. 3:14 Continue in the things that you have been taught.

V.16-17 Confidence in the Sufficiency of Scripture.

As we come to Chapter 4, all that Paul has been saying comes to a crescendo in V.1 Preach the word

A) As a pastor, Timothy was not required to merely *know* the word or *like* the word or *approve* of the word;

B) He was required to **preach the word** in season and out of season.

C) That right there is one of the primary purposes of the Church.

1) Calling by God – Mandate from Heaven!

2) Preach the Word! In every season!

D) English Priest – two seasons – In season ...

This morning I want us to consider why these words to Timothy are so IMPORTANT for our Present day Church.

Four reasons why we need to place an importance on the preaching the word.

A) #1 Because of the danger of the seasons:

B) In Ch.3 We saw where Paul prophesied that the last days would be marked by troubling times

1) People given over to 3 misguided affections

C) Men would be lovers of themselves / lovers of money / Pleasure.

D) Then he tells us here in Ch. 4 – Because of those 3 misguided affections that people will no longer endure sound or healthy doctrine.

A poll of Protestant Pastors was conducted by sociologist Jeffrey Hayden. He surveyed 10,000 Pastors of whom 7,441 replied.

The questions he asked them were questions like this, for example:

Do you accept Jesus' physical resurrection as a fact? Fifty-one percent of Methodists said no.

Thirty-five percent of United Presbyterian said no.

Thirty percent of Episcopalians said no.

Thirty-three percent of American Baptist said no.

Thirteen percent of American Lutheran said no.

When asked if they believed that the Scriptures are the inspired and inerrant Word of God.

Eighty-seven percent of Methodists said no.

Ninety-five percent of Episcopalians said no.

Eighty-two percent of Presbyterians said no.

Sixty-seven percent of American Baptists said no.

Seventy-seven percent of American Lutherans said no.

We are living in a time when so much of the Church is abandoning the important doctrines of the faith.

A) No longer endure Sound Doctrine: Because they have itching ears – they are looking for teachers who are going to tell them what they want to hear.

B) Teachings that are according to the desires of the listener.

1) Itching ears = Itch for novelty – something new

2) Also – that which is going to tickle me – make me feel good.

C) Tell me something that is going to make me feel good about myself and what I am doing.

{THE NEW GOOD NEWS

Interesting, Paul says to Timothy Preach the word in season and out of season.

A) Word season can be translated – Movements –

B) Paul was anticipating the various movements that the Church would go thru.

C) Thru the History of the Church there have been various movements where the Church has departed from the truth

D) We don't have the time to consider all of them – so briefly mention – Modern day movements

1) How they have Abandoned sound Doctrine – according to their own desires

Prosperity movement: If you have enough faith and give to the right ministries – You can be healthy and wealthy.

A) Plays on people's desire for material wealth.

B) Completely ignores passages that deal with suffering and trials –

1) How God uses our suffering to mature us.

C) Sunday nights studying Hebrews 11 Hall of faith

1) Every person listed – suffered incredibly for their faith

D) Moses – Forsook the pleasures of Egypt to suffer affliction w/ ... of God – Looked to a greater reward

1) Living for heaven.

E) Only ones Prospering are the teachers themselves

World Mag – Expose on teachers

Crouches - \$800,000 a year – 340 million dollar

Benny Hinn – 10 million mansion

Joyce Meyer 4 million

Holy laughter movement: Abandoned doctrine replaced it w/ experience: Personal experience supersedes... Word

A) Result people laughing uncontrollably in the name of the Spirit.

B) Barking like dogs / roaring like lions – not an ounce of scripture to back up what they were doing.

More recent – The seeker sensitive movement:

A) 80's 90's were the seasons of the consumer:

B) Church experts declared that people were no longer attending Church to commune with God.

1) Instead they come to consume.

C) And in order for Churches to survive they are going to have to adapt to the needs of the spiritual consumer

D) What that means it is all about the appetite. What are people hungry for?

So the movement was birthed out of a series of surveys where people were asked – what kind of Church do you want

A) A Church that is entertaining –

B) A Church that is not convicting – that doesn't make me feel bad about myself.

1) A Church that is positive. Fun for the family.

C) **Translated this way:** Make worship more of a spectator thing – like a show

1) Music that is incredible even if that means employing unsaved musicians to play.

D) Positive messages: We won't talk about subjects like sin/ or hell.

E) We don't want to make people feel uncomfortable so – talk from the Bible instead of using Bibles

1) Avoid subjects like the blood / Sacrifice

The goal of the movement was if we can get the unchurched person to like us maybe they will embrace our Savior.

A) But what is missing is that which nourishes the soul – moves the spirit – Only God's Word can do that.

B) **Greg Laurie – The upside down Church**

“Somewhere along the line we got the idea that the goal of being a Christian is personal well-being. We desire healthy egos and high self-esteem, and peace with our past. We no longer believe in the power of God's word to make us new.” The upside down Church - Greg Laurie

Greg also said:

“A Church that has a steady diet of feel good sermons in place of good solid theology and sound teaching from the Scriptures, will eventually produce a congregation of weak believers.” The upside down Church - Greg Laurie

C) People will develop an appetite for what you feed them.

1) Yet the fact that people develop an appetite over time for what they are served doesn't mean they are consuming what their spirit is truly hungry for.

I believe that people are truly hungry for the Bible.” Many just don't realize it

A) Gal 4:6 – Spirit crying Abba – Intimacy – One of the primary ways that intimacy is developed is by studying God's word.

B) Longing in the Soul – that is only truly met – by serious interaction with God

C) Go see a play and be moved emotionally – Workout Physical – I can have a great relationship with my wife / great friendships

D) But the Primary reason why I am here is to Know God – **that is why Jesus came to make a way for that relationship to happen –**

1) God wants it to grow – Thru the word that happens

Well, the prevalent movement today is the Emerging Church movement:

The Movement for the Postmodern Culture:

A) Postmodernism in general is marked by a tendency to dismiss the possibility of any sure and settled knowledgeable truth.

Aa) Postmodernism generally prefers subjectivity to objectivity and ambiguity to clarity.

1) Postmodernists are skeptical of logic, and they also distrust history.

B) Truth is subjective- everything is relative – there are no absolutes

C) Emergent Churches are determined to adapt the Christian faith, the structure of the Church and even the gospel itself to the rhetoric of postmodernism.

D) As a result: Skepticism is embraced. – Nothing is for sure.

1) Everything is open for discussion

E) To embrace doctrine or to take a dogmatic stance on anything scriptural is considered as being arrogant.

Leaders refuse to take a stand on sensitive issues like abortion / Homosexuality

A) Refuse to be dogmatic on important Bible Doctrines

B) Everything is sort of ambivalent – The importance of Preaching is down played – replaced by discussion

C) Truth Wars: Mac good expose on some of the Dangers of this movement

What is also alarming of the emergent Church movement is in their desire to reach the Postmodern Culture – they have dived in w/ Both feet.

A) Pastor in the NW– the Cussing Pastor – he regularly uses profanity from the Pulpit {Common

B) Another Church boasts that their most popular sermon series is a 7 week series called at the movies

1) A message series that relates timeless truths to some of today’s blockbuster hits.

C) Text today is the Matrix / Titanic / Harry Potter

D) Emergent Church Pastors wear their Culture Coolness as a Badge of Honor

1) Know all the South Park episodes / Frequent MTV

Didn’t Jesus say: I want you to be in the world but not of the world
Paul Romans 12 – Squeeze into its mold

Fact: Society Changes – but truth doesn’t

A) Red is always going to be Red – Until they find a cure – Cancer will always kill people

B) Sin separates people from a God who loves them and sin is a terminal disease

C) In Order for a person to be saved they need to understand what is hindering them from having a relationship with God

D) Adultery/ Drug addiction/ Homo/ Stealing / lying / pride – It is all sin

1) Needs to be repented of – Jesus forgive / Heal

E) Jesus said – Know the truth – truth will set you free –

1) How will they Know the truth unless someone is sent to Preach.

Paul is admonishing Timothy – Dangerous seasons You stay the course and preach the Word Timothy!

Convince= Convict – Rebuke – tell it like it is, fearless

#1 The Danger of the seasons

#2 Because of the Devotion of the saints:

A) Jesus was teaching truth – Hard sayings – crowds started to leave

B) Are you going to leave also- **“Where go in you are the words of life.”**

1) Always those who feel that way.

Job 23:12 “I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food.”

C) There will always be those who long for the truth.

1) Precious sister came up to me last Sunday –

Encourage me to keep sharing the truth – That is why I and my husband come – **If you ever stop – we will stop coming – I hope the rest of you feel that way too.**

D) **B/R Church** – I know a Pastor who for 10 yrs solid Bible teacher – Church of several thousand people

1) Healthy Church / vibrant Church – but in an effort to reach more people he decided to try the seeker model

E) Shorter messages – more entertainment – More felt need topics than straight forward truth –

1) After about a month of that his Church revolted –

Been giving us Steak all these yrs and now you want us to start eating cotton candy.

Acts 2:42 is our model for ministry:

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

It was real, it was way below the surface– people's hearts were being touched because of the word and real relationship with God that was happening

Preach the word

#1 The Danger of the seasons!

#2 Because of the Devotion of the saints!

#3 Because of the Dynamic Power of the Scriptures!

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

I am only going to spend a minute here on this 3rd point because we spent all of last Sunday on these two verses.

A) Where Paul lays out so clearly the Power of the word of God to transform a life

B) It is the power of the Word that saves. It is the power of the Word that sanctifies.

1) It provides doctrine. It teaches us what is right God's way: God's heat

C) But it also reproves – It cuts us open and exposes our sin.

1) It reveals where we are wrong – What needs to Change

But it doesn't stop there – It also corrects -

A) It literally means in the Greek to make someone upright who has fallen down, you pick him back up, puts them back together again.

B) Our lives can resemble at times Humpty dumpty – Fallen / broken / **seems Hopeless**

C) God thru His Word is able to put us back together again.

1) Transforming power as we believe it and obey it – follow it!

It's goal is to make us complete – equipped for every good work {His workmanship

A) So the goal of the Church – any Pastor's, is to Preach the word

B) Convince – Rebuke – Exhort = to encourage and build up.

1) With all long suffering

C) Barclay “The Christian duty of conviction, of rebuke and of encouragement, must be carried out with unwearied *patience*.”

D) It describes a spirit which never grows irritated, never despairs and never regards any man as beyond salvation.

E) The Christian patiently believes in men because he unconquerably believes in the changing power of Christ.

1) The Power of the word to transform a life.

This is what we call the sufficiency of the Scripture. It completely saves, completely sanctifies.

Preach the word

#1 The Danger of the seasons!

#2 Because of the Devotion of the saints!

#3 Because of the Dynamic Power of the Scriptures!

#4 Because of the Demand of the Sovereign Ch.4:1

A) I confess This verse strikes me with holy fear, "I solemnly charge you" means a dead, serious command.

B) This verse helps me to understand why John Knox before he ascended **the pulpit to preach fell on his face and burst forth, , in abundant tears out of fear,** the fear of preaching and misrepresenting the truth.

The fear of divine scrutiny is pretty serious Stuff!

A) Stricter Judgment

B) I can relate to John Knox, I often feel that way! Two things that move my heart as it relates to teaching –

#1 The awesome responsibility to handle the word of God – I take that seriously – I study hard – because I want to get it right –

Every week I put in a 60hr work week – 6 days including Saturday. – 30 of those hrs are spent in studying for the Bible studies I teach here at the church and other places

18hrs a week goes into preparation for Sunday morning alone –

A guy heard me talking once about Prep – and the amount of time – Felt sorry for the times he fell asleep during my teaching – YOU SHOULD

#1 It is a great responsibility to get this right – to rightly divide the word – Concerned about clarity and content – context

#2 The thing that motivates me is this: I want to have something to say: I never want this to be a thing of

I have to say something –

Plead, God give me something to say:

Milk Meat Manna –

What is your word for today for CCV –

A) What is the focus – Lord I plead, give me something to say:

B) Not just an intellectual exercise – not just information

Application for our lives – Sometimes I don't get that until Sunday am – frustrating

I go to bed on Saturday nights – so depressed – Lord Help! please

C) Lord speak -

The Church has have been made to Preach the Word – His pleasure –

Loves to see his Kids – well fed – Turn to Ephesians 4

You have been made to know God Jesus said –

Know the truth and the truth will set you free!