

## 2 Timothy 4:1-22 Stay the Course

**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 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 person & those around them when they are doing what **God created them to do.**

**Well here in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy Paul has been admonishing Timothy his young protégé in ministry - to be faithful in what God has called him to be and do.**

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

**B) 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 sounds 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**

**A) Paul's final admonitions to Timothy in ch. 4 - See 3 things -**

**B) Preach/ Watch/Endure/ Do the work.....**

**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.**

**First Admonition - Preach the Word!**

A) Paul could not have emphasized the essential nature of preaching any more strongly: "I therefore charge you Preach the word

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

Paul's emphasis on the word of God has been constant in this epistle:

A) There are some 36 references to the true gospel in this letter and some 17 references to false teachings."

B) It follows, of course, that if preaching the Word is so important,

1) then hearing the Word preached is also a top priority, because a man does not preach to himself.

C) The next phrase gives insight into the nature of what **Biblical preaching** is supposed to look like

**Convince, = to reprove or point out errors. - To bring to light, and expose**

**A) Constant need for combating cultural errors of the day and errors that can creep into the church**

G Campbell Morgan "The task of the preacher was never to catch the spirit of the age but to correct the spirit of the age."

**B) I shared with you on Sunday - what has been would of my life verses -**

<sup>28</sup> Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

C) Preach Jesus - Warn and teach - both are necessary tasks for any faithful Pastor

D) A Healthy diet makes for healthy Christians

**Rebuke: rebuke is stronger than the word Convince implying more authority and less argument,**

A) It conveys the idea of a sharp, and severe reprimand

B) It is having the boldness to say You are wrong; you need to repent!!!

C) We cannot be afraid of confrontation!

“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

William Barclay: “Any pastor whose teaching tends to make men think less of sin is a menace to Christianity and to mankind.”

D) Convince - Rebuke - So far sounds harsh - here is the Balance

**Exhort - The word has the nuance of encouraging someone to right behavior**

A) One translation - Give comfort

B) Fact of the matter Some people need rebuke and some need encouragement.

C) If you encourage those who need rebuking, you assist them to go on sinning.

D) But if you rebuke those who need encouragement, you'll discourage them.

E) Someone has said that the preacher's job is to comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable.

“After having reproofed and rebuked disobedient believers under his care, the faithful preacher is then to come alongside them in love and encourage them to spiritual change.” MacArthur

**Convince rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and teaching.**

A) I think this is one of the most important things for people who are serving Jesus to remember

B) Be patient in your teaching - Grow and change take time.

C) Sometimes people don't get it the first time or the

**2<sup>nd</sup> time - or the 3<sup>rd</sup> time - patience is needed**

A) It is our job to faithfully deliver the truth - and it is the HS Job to bring change!

B) I recently was speaking with a Young Pastor I am mentoring from another church -

1) He sent me some sermons of his to listen to -

C) After listening to two of them - I noticed in one of them he seemed a little aggravated -

1) I mentioned it - Sure enough he was

D) Frustrated that People in his church - were not changing in certain areas -

E) Remind him of this passage - **Be patient - Lower expectations**

1) Result: Disappointed less - Surprised more

Now Paul also gives the reason why Timothy needs to be faithful to PREACH the word

**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; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.**

I Think Paul is implying here and warning that there would come a time when there would be a temptation not to do that.

**There would come a time where there would be a sharp division in the church**

A) It would be over the subject of sound doctrine.

B) There will be those believers and churches that adhere to SOUND DOCTRINE

C) There would be those churches that focus on giving people what they want to hear.

1) Abundance of those - Heap up teachers..

**Timothy you have a choice to make: Are you going to be focused on being true to the Word - and calling**

A)Or are you going to be focused on being liked by people.

B)If you itch peoples ears and scratch their backs by telling them what they want to hear -

1)You will be liked by many -

C)Pastors who focus today on being motivational speakers

1)But I think there are people in some of those churches - think their fine - still lost

**D)Talking with a friend of mine who recently became the pastor of a seeker... church**

1)He was telling me - crazy it was - Not talking about sin, never mention Hell -

**That church was Great at drawing a crowd - but not making Disciples**

A)God is using him to change that culture and mindset - get that church Healthy

B)We are living in a day and age - where it seems opinion and feelings is what matters most to pp

**I have had people who profess to be Christians - kids who have grown up in Christian homes**

A)Say to me: I know that you think I shouldn't be sleeping with my boyfriend - or living .....

B)But I feel that it is fine - we love each other not doing anything wrong

C)My response: Your Fight is not with me - it is with the Word of God - Flee Sexual immorality

1)That isn't just speaking of intercourse

D)Sexual immorality is anything that causes arousal

**Listen you can't pick and chose what Bible verses you are going to believe and obey**

A)Recall how ch.3 ended - V.16 <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**B)WW The Bible is Profitable or useful for:**

- Doctrine = what is right
- Reproof = what is not right
- Correction = how to get right
- Instruction = how to stay right

C)Preaching the truth is essential for spiritual growth - healthy and maturity.

D)So Paul's first admonition is Preach the Word - stay true to the Word

We see his next three admonitions in V.5

**5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**

A)**Be Watchful** – be on the alert for false teachers – don't be taken off guard.

B)**Endure Affliction**: Stand strong against the growing persecution – remembering that all who desire to live Godly lives will suffer persecution.

C)**Do the work of an evangelist**: Never stop sharing Christ – Gospel Centric

D)Some people are gifted as evangelist – Greg Laurie –

1)Share the gospel with results

E)But all Pastors are to do the work of an Evangelist – be about Sharing the gospel.

**Note that last line: Fulfill your ministry:**

A)Do not quit until the end, keep on until you have done all that the Lord has sent you to do.

**It is at that point that Paul gives us some insight into how he finished well .**

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

**Finishing well doesn't happen by accident: Deliberate focus and attitude**

**In this one paragraph Paul shares 3 important things**

1. His present outlook concerning his impending death
2. His past approach to life.
3. His future hope that kept him going all those years.

### 1. His present outlook concerning his impending death

V.6 For I am **already being poured** out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

A)When Paul says he is being poured out like a drink offering, he is referring to an OT ritual that accompanied certain sacrifices.

**B)The Law mandated that when a worshiper brought an offering,**

1)part of it was consumed upon the altar and part was given to the priest for his own use.

C)When the offering was consumed by fire, the worshiper would sometimes pour a “drink offering” of wine upon the burning sacrifice.

D)All the wine was to be poured out. None was to be given to the priest.

1)Symbolic of total surrender

**As the wine hit the burning coals, it evaporated and a sweet smell rose from the altar.**

A)Keep in mind that wine was a symbol of joy in the OT

B)The drink offering was a symbolic way of saying I gladly give all that I am and have to the Lord!

C)My life is given as a symbol of my wholehearted commitment to God. { **Nothing is held back**

**Now by speaking of his death as a “drink offering,” he was saying to Timothy,**

A)Timothy I am all in - always been all in - He wasn't condemned yet - already being poured out

**B)I am ready to gladly lay down my life for my Lord.**

**C)See Paul lived with this mindset - Philippians For me to live is Christ - to die is gain.**

D)Living is about Jesus - Dying means I get to see him face to face.

<sup>20</sup> **I have been crucified** with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Galatians 2:20

### 2. His past approach to life. V.7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

A)Paul's approach to life was Laser focused -

B)Fought **the good fight** - finished **the race** - kept **the faith**

**Doesn't say a fight or my fight - or a race or my race but the fight - the race**

A)Paul was laser focused on his mission and vision

B)Contending for the faith - contending for souls

C)In my opinion - the weakness of the church today in our current culture - stems from this one problem

D)Many Christians have no idea why they exist - why they are here on planet earth

**Our singular purpose is to be Ambassadors for Christ**

A)Work place - neighborhoods - schools - places where we hang out

B)Some people just don't get that - So their lives lack purpose and direction -

1)they go from one thing to next thing

C)Guys we are not here to just make money - have fun - enjoy life -

1)we are Ambassadors - all of us

D)If you are looking at your life through that lens - everything else takes on a whole new meaning

E)So Paul's approach to life was he was laser focused on his mission and vision

**V.8 Paul gives us the Reason: for his approach to life**

### 3. His future hope that kept him going all those years.

“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

**Paul understood this truth - Life is not about the here and now - it is about the there and then**

A) Paul knew - Later is longer

**B) Lay up treasures in heaven not here on earth - Paul chose to be earthly poor - heavenly rich**

C) By faith he sees a day when he will receive his reward from the Lord.

D) It will be a guaranteed reward. It is “laid up” or “stored” in heaven for Paul.

E) And It will be a glorious reward. It is the crown of righteousness.

**And It is not just for Paul but also for everyone who loves the Lord and longs for his appearing.**

A) Those who are living with the coming of Jesus in View

B) Be those people who are living like Jesus could come today - anticipating - expectation

C) But are also realizing that it could still be years so we are going to invest time pouring into others.

1) Building up the saints

D) Building relationships with unbelievers in hopes of modeling Jesus before them -

1) So they would see something different in us

**E) Peter said that we need to be ready to give an answer to anyone who would ask ... hope in us**

**Here me on this: Think about this - People are not going to ask you that question until they get to know you.**

A) Until they have observed you for a while

B) A stranger isn't going to walk up to you and ask you that - he has no idea who you are

1) What you believe or stand for

C) But a person who gets to see your life day in and day out - how you handle - loss - Krissy

1) How you handle - crazy culture

D) That will make them ask that question

**This is why whenever we have our Prophecy updates and Conferences**

A) I say the goal of this is not to create an attitude of escapism.

B) Because the Believer who is only interested in getting out of here -

1) isn't going to build relationships - they might preach -

**C) But if we realize we are here for a purpose -**

**Ambassadors - represent our King - foreign land**

1) Look to Build relationships to impact souls

**Now after admonishing Timothy in his calling - Paul ends this book with some final words in v.9-22**

9 Be diligent to come to me quickly; 10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. 12 And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. 13 Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments. 14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. 15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. 16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. 17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen! 19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. 20 Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick. 21 Do your utmost to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren. 22 The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

**Break up this Final section in this way:**

**The Request**



## The People The Comfort

### The Request: V.9 Come quickly – v.21 come before winter.

A)The journey would take Timothy 4-6 months over land and sea—mostly land—by way of Troas

B)Paul called Timothy to come before winter – because if he delayed –

1)if he procrastinated .... He wouldn't make it.

C)Too hard to travel that far in the winter and Paul would have been dead.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Request: V.11 Bring Mark – Great Story of 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance

A)Mark was the cousin to Barnabas – he joined Paul and Barnabas on their 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey – mid way thru change of heart – went home

B)This bothered Paul – **he looked at Mark as being a Flake**

1)When it came time for Barnabas and Paul to go out on their 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary Journey – Barnabas – *Son of encouragement* - Mark a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance

C) But Paul was not into that at all.

### D)The whole matter turned into a dispute between Paul & Barnabas – that led to their splitting up.

1) Paul went out with Silas and Barnabas went somewhere else with Mark

### Mark Proved himself with Barnabas and ended up ministering with Peter who also was no stranger to failure ( Denial ) & Knew about 2<sup>nd</sup> Chances

A)Paul has come to see Mark's usefulness - bring him too

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Request: V.13 Bring my cloak Cold – my books – my Parchment- Stay busy

A)Paul was always seeking to make the most of his time.

### THE PEOPLE: 2 Hurtful and the blessings

A)First is Demas, who had been Paul's fellow worker, had forsaken him.

B)With obvious pain & heartache, Paul gives the reason for this --

1)Demas was "in love w/ this present World"

C)Started over time – backsliding always does - All of us know a Demas –

D)Forsaken the Lord because they loved this present world

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

### The next problem person He mentions V.14 is Alexander the Coppersmith

A)He did me much Harm!

B)The word that is used for "did me harm," is the word that is frequently used in Greek for an *informer*.

1) Possibly the one who turned Paul over to the Romans as declaring - Paul to be an enemy of Caesar

C)And If this is the same Alexander who is mentioned in the first letter to Timothy --

1)there he is linked with the name Hymenaeus, and of both of them the apostle says, "**I have delivered them to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme**" –

D)Timothy would be passing through there, so Paul warns him, "Watch out for Alexander; he'll do you in if he gets a chance."

### But notice where the apostle rests his case: "May the Lord repay him for his deeds"

A)Human side of Paul – watch out for this guy – and I hope the Lord takes care of him.

### B)Let the Lord be your defense and your avenger

In Romans 12, reminding himself that the Lord has said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay," {Romans

### The People the Blessings –

A)V.10 Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia"

B)Both of these had gone out on missions.

V.12 Tychicus to Ephesus – take over for Timothy while he was gone to Paul.

**C) Dependable Luke.**

- 1) Personal Physician
- 2) Biographer

Aquilla and Priscilla tent makers by trade but who were faithful ministers of the gospel.

A) The Household of

**Paul greets the family of Onesiphorus.**

A) We read about Onesiphorus in Ch.1 Paul mentioned that he came to Rome to search out Paul.

B) To find him in Prison and Paul said of him – He refreshed me often. .

C) Faithful brothers/sisters that Paul could count on they blessed him- going for it for Jesus

**V.20 "Trophimus," Paul says, "I left ill at Miletus."**

A) Notice Paul didn't say, "Why are you still sick? Where's your faith?"

B) Paul no doubt prayed for him and he didn't get healed - so he left him there in Miletus to recover

C) Today in the church we have what is known as the Word faith movement -

1) Not healed it is because you don't have enough faith

D) Paul says no such thing - and what about the faith of the person Praying?

E) Not a person with more faith than Paul

**Finally - THE COMFORT: V.16-18**

16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. <sup>18</sup> And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve *me* for His heavenly kingdom. To Him *be* glory forever and ever. Amen!

A) When Paul was in Prison in Rome – Luke stayed with Him – but no one in Rome came to his defense.

B) Scared - Lord don't hold that against them - **Jesus**

C) No one in Rome put in a good word – they were all scared of Nero

**Paul said - Jesus was with me -**

A) He is the One on whom you can always count.

Heb. 13:5 tells us that God has promised, "I will never, never, ever, under any conditions leave you nor forsake you,"

B) The writer's response is, "What, then, can man do to me?" {cf, Heb. 13:6}.

**The presence of Jesus with him and beside him, Paul says, accomplished two things:**

A) First, it "gave him strength to testify."

B) Indication is that Paul had his voice before Nero – like he did before Agrippa –

1) Paul Preached the gospel

C) Second, Paul says, "He delivered me from the lion's mouth."

D) The "lion" here is very likely a reference to Satan. 1 Peter 5:8 -

1) Prowling – seeking who he can devour – sink teeth and claws into.

**Paul says – He didn't get me!**

21 Do your utmost to come before winter.

Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren.

22 The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.