

5 Reasons to Preach the Word

2 Timothy 3:1 - 4:4

6 January 2023

There is no doubt that the Lord wants believers to preach the word (**2 Tim 4:2**). He wants His servants to be “apt to teach” (2 Tim 2:24, 1 Tim 3:2). This is a definite calling for every believer. If you can find someone who will listen, preach the word wherever you find them.

When to preach: “*in season and out of season.*” That means all the time.

Negative preaching: “*reprove, rebuke.*” Confront error and sin.

Positive preaching: “*exhort.*” Instruct believers with sound doctrine. Encourage to be obedient to the word.

Which parts of God’s word should you preach? All of it (Mat 4:4, Luke 4:4).

The people of this world are starving for God’s truth. We can deliver that truth through preaching.

WHY WE MUST OBEY GOD’S COMMAND TO PREACH THE WORD:

1. BECAUSE OF THE DANGER OF THE SEASONS.

- **2 Tim 3:1** “In the last days perilous times shall come.”
 - “Little children, it is the last time...” (1 John 2:18).
 - “God...hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son.” (Heb 1:2).
 - “Perilous” does not mean difficult. It means extremely dangerous.
 - We live in times when the truth, the gospel, and the church is threatened. It will not get better. “Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse...” (2 Tim 3:13).
 - The evil times don’t come and go; they accumulate.

Perilous times through the ages:

1. **SACRAMENTALISM** (approx. 400 A. D. and beyond). The Roman Catholic system of religion promoted salvation by works (following rituals, trusting sacraments). Under this system, the church became a substitute for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The persecution and execution of true believers was common during this age.
2. **RATIONALISM** (18TH century). Men began to worship their own mind. Their God was human reason. The holy scriptures were assaulted. Men were teaching people not to believe the bible. Truth was rejected.
3. **ORTHODOXISM** (19th century). Men had the bible but put more trust in their religious creeds and rituals. Sacramentalism played a part also. It was dead, cold religion.
4. **POLITICISM**. The church became preoccupied with political power.
5. **ECUMENISM** (1950’s). Churches were willing to set aside God’s truth so they could unite with other churches. Negative preaching was frowned upon, so only half-truths were preached. Evil was tolerated, doctrine was disregarded, spiritual discernment was severely lacking.
6. **EXPERIENTIALISM** (1960’s). Seeking truth through feelings, intuition, visions, and special revelations instead of the word of God.
7. **SUBJECTIVISM** (1980’s). A philosophical position which holds that the nature of reality depends upon the one perceiving or thinking about it. This was a man-centered theology that promoted selfishness.
8. **MYSTICISM** (1990’s). Believe whatever you want to believe.
9. **PRAGMATISM** (1990’s). Give the people whatever they want. Do a survey and find out what they want, at the expense of the truth. Short sermons, no deep doctrine, must be entertaining.
10. **SYNCRETISM** (late 90’s). All religions believe in one God and are equally correct. All are going to heaven.
11. **PAGANISM**. Every individual has the right to choose what they want to believe and how they want to believe it.

- The people behind these perilous times are described in 2 Timothy 3:2-8.
- It will take spiritually strong, competent preachers of the truth to combat all these people in all these religious systems led by Satan. Preach the word...

2. BECAUSE OF THE DEVOTION OF THE SAINTS (2 Tim 3:10).

- Timothy had observed Paul's manner of living, his Christian character, and his response to trouble and hardship. Paul taught Timothy how to live the Christian life and how to minister. Timothy was told to continue (vs 14) in those things.
 - These are tried and proven practices. We don't need to try to improve upon God's way of ministry. Do what faithful men before you have done.

3. BECAUSE OF THE DYNAMIC OF THE SCRIPTURE (2 Tim 3:15).

- The word of God is powerful (Heb 4:12).
 - **It has the power to save** a soul (1 Pet 1:23) and convert a soul (Psalm 19:7). Why would you preach anything else? If you don't preach the word, you don't believe it has the power to save.
 - **It has the power to sanctify** the believer, providing doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.

4. BECAUSE OF THE DEMAND OF THE SOVEREIGN (2 Tim 4:1-2).

- We are charged to preach the word because we will stand before God one day and answer for it. His judgment is the only judgment that matters.
 - Prepare your preaching, that it may please the Lord. Don't be a man-pleaser.

5. BECAUSE OF THE DECEPTIVENESS OF THE SENSUAL (2 Tim 4:3-4).

- Anything outside of the word of God (the word of Satan, the word of devils, the word of man) is the enemy of the word.
- We live in a day when people do not endure sound doctrine. They want their itching ears scratched.
 - They prefer "profane and vain babblings." (2 Tim 2:16).
 - It is a time when there is no room for absolute authoritative doctrine. Everything is relative to your opinion (relativism).
- Christians all over the world actively fight against many sinful things, but they disregard the attacks on God's truth. If we don't preserve the truth, the church will die.
- Christians today say that doctrine isn't important. They emphasize love without doctrine. If you withhold the truth from people, that is not love.
 - You must confront sin and correct error with the true doctrines of the word of God if you care about people.
- Churches that emphasize sensual, thrilling, mindless, fleshly behavior are an offense to God. His emphasis is on His word.

Preach the word!