

Sermon Title: The Attributes of Defeating Apostasy

Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer and servant's of Christ to preach the Word of God in an apostate age.

Sermon Proposition: There are 4 motivational attributes of a faithful preacher of the Word in an apostate age.

I. The servant must preach the Word in light of final judgment. V.1

A. The servant has a charge to keep v.1a

“Some day the servant’s work will be tested and tried, this testing or judging will be carried out by the Father and Son. A servant’s work must be good enough, not to satisfy man, but to satisfy the Judge. He is not concerned with the criticisms of men. He courts the ‘well done of Jesus Christ.’”

B. The servant has a judge to face. V.1b

1) Jesus is going to judge the preacher on whether he preached.

2) Jesus is going to judge the preacher on what he preached.

Matthew 16:27 "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

Acts 10:42 "And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God *to be* Judge of the living and the dead.

Romans 14:10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ¹.

C. The servant has a kingdom to prepare for. V.1c

1) This focus will save us from the touchy spirit which is offended by the criticisms of men.

2) This focus will save us from the self-important spirit which is concerned with matters of personal rights and personal prestige.

3) This focus will save us from the self-centered spirit which demands thanks and praise from men for its every act.

4) This focus will save us from being hurt by the ingratitude of men.

“The Christian’s concentration is on Christ.”

(William Barclay. The Letters to Timothy, Titus and Philemon, p. 232f). **(1 Tim. 5:21)**

Luke 22:29 "And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed *one* upon Me, **30** "that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

II. The servant must preach the Word in every season. V.2

A. The Greek word (kerusso) – is the picture of the minister standing before the people in all the dignity and authority of God Himself. V.2a

Preaching the Word of God (the whole council of God) is the consuming passion of the Preacher’s life. The whole obsession is burning within the soul of the Preacher.

1) He preaches because preaching is God’s chosen method to save man.

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. . . **.21** For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

2) He preaches because preaching is what he will be held accountable for.

1 Corinthians 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

Matthew 10:7 "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' . . **27** "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.

Acts 5:20 "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

“This must be the pattern for the preacher today. His preaching should be [with dignity] that dignity which comes from . . . the fact that he is an official herald of the King of Kings. It should be [with] authority which will command the respect, careful attention, and proper reaction of the listeners.” (Kenneth Wuest. *The Pastoral Epistles*, Vol. 2, p. 154).

“The word [preach is a] command to be obeyed at once. It is a sharp command as in military language. The preacher must present, not book reviews, not politics, not economics, not theories of science, but the Word. The preacher as a herald cannot choose his message. He is given a message to proclaim by the Sovereign. If he will not proclaim that, let him step down from his exalted position.” (Kenneth Wuest. *The Pastoral Epistles*, Vol. 2, p. 154).

B. The preacher must be **ready** in all seasons. V.2b
The Greek word (epistethi) – means to “take a stand, to stand upon it, to stick to it.
The Preacher is to proclaim the Word of God when the time is favorable or unfavorable. There’s no closed season or time.

C. The Preacher must be ready to **convince** in all seasons. V.2c
Reprove (elegxon) – The word means to stir a person to prove himself, to put a person under conviction, to lead a person to see his sin and feel guilt over it.
It means to put a person under conviction of sin and to lead them to a confession and repentance.

The Preacher is to deal with sin, both in the lives of his unsaved hearers and in those of the saints to whom he ministers, and he is to do it in no uncertain tones. And as he deals with sin that confronts him as he preaches, he is to expect results and response, the salvation of the lost and the sanctification of the saints. (*The Pastoral Epistles*, Vol. 2, p. 155)

D. The Preacher must be ready to **exhort** in all seasons. V.2d
Parakaleo – has the idea of “pleading,” to beg, to urge. It means to beseech, encourage, comfort, and help. The preacher must carry the person to Christ and His Word. (Heb. 3:13)

E. The Preacher must be ready with all **longsuffering** and **teaching** in all seasons. V.2e
Makrothumia – The idea is to minister with patience, that endures in exhorting people, no matter the circumstances. (Ill. Moses, Israel and the rock.)

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

III. The servant must preach the Word in the season of **apostasy**. V.3-4

A. People will not endure sound doctrine.

Note the word “sound” (hugiaino) – It means wholesome and healthy doctrine and teaching, found in the Word of God.

People turn away because they don’t want to hear truth, they don’t agree with it, or else they don’t want to be reminded or think about it. (John 8:47)

John 7:16 Jesus¹ answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. **17** "If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or *whether* I speak on My own *authority*.

John 8:43 "Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. **44** "You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Romans 16:17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

2 John 1:9 Whoever transgresses¹ and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.

B. People will want preachers who will allow them to live like they desire. V.3b
The Greek actually says that people will be dominated “by their own lusts.” They will want to live lives of cravings, self-gratification, the flesh. (**2 Tim. 3:1; 1 Tim. 1:10; 2 Tim. 3:6**)

Matthew 5:19 "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 15:9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching *as* doctrines the commandments of men¹."

2 Corinthians 2:17 For we are not, as so many¹, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

C. People will turn away from the truth. V.4 (**1 Tim. 4:1-2; Titus 1:10-11**)

2 Peter 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction.

"Christians madly pursue extrabiblical revelation in the form of prophecies and dreams.

Preachers deny the reality of hell. The modern gospel promises heaven apart from holiness.

Churches ignore what the Bible says about women's roles, homosexuality and other issues."

IV. The servant must preach the Word in order to fulfill his ministry. V.5

A. The servant must be watchful. V.5a

To watch (nephe) means to be sober, calm, and alert, to keep a cool, calm, collected mind, to maintain a controlled and disciplined life and spirit.

Matthew 26:41 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

B. The servant must endure affliction. V.5b (**Ph. 2:27**)

Matthew 10:22 "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

James 1:12 Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

C. The servant must do the work of evangelism. V.5c (**Acts 1:8**)

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God¹ in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

D. The servant must fulfill his ministry. V.5d