

Guard the Gospel – 2 Timothy

2 Timothy 4:1-5

“Preach the Word” – July 21, 2019



Introduction

Last words, final words are weighty words. Knowing he's about to die and needs to pass the baton of gospel ministry on to Timothy...Paul wants to make clear what his job description involves as a pastor in Ephesus. Though there are many things he must do as a pastor, central to his job is to 'preach the word'.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. What is preaching?
- II. What should preaching look like?
- III. Why is preaching necessary?

Read & Discuss

Read [2 Timothy 4:1-5](#)

Preaching is a heralding or proclaiming of the king's message – in this instance, the word of God our King. Only His word can create and sustain spiritual life (1 Peter 1:23, Matthew 4:4), therefore it is *His* word that must be proclaimed.

Pray the whole counsel of God would be proclaimed at our church without fear and in love. Pray for the strength, humility, wisdom and grace to *rightly handle* God's word (2 Timothy 2:15). Pray God gives new life and sustains spiritual life through the preaching of His word.

If God's word is profitable for *teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness* (2 Timothy 3:16), then the *preaching* of God's word should result in patient reproof, rebuke, exhortation, and teaching (2 Timothy 4:3). God's loving correction, through His word is not meant to make us miserable, but to give us life and follow *Him*. How do you respond to God's Word when it confronts or corrects you?

Pray that God would help us to receive His word with humility (James 1:21) trusting that His word is true, good, and good for us. Pray that we would not just hear God's Word, but do what it says (James 1:22). Pray that it would be normal for us to discuss God's Word together during the week and to hold each other accountable to do what He calls us to.

Preaching is essential not only because God attends to the preached word when the saints gather each Sunday – it is essential because people will drift from sound teaching to scratch their itching ears. Preaching, rightly done, is Spirit-empowered proclamation that doesn't merely inform – it moves us to worship. In other words, it pushes out our sinful passions and replaces them with godly desires that are pleasing to Him.

Pray that we would be moved to worship – not just when we gather to sing, pray and hear God's word read...but worship when God's word is preached. Pray that God would open our eyes to behold His beauty week in and week out (Psalm 119:18, 2 Corinthians 3:18). Pray that we would value God's word and the preaching of God's word, knowing that God is present in a unique way when it happens (2 Timothy 4:1).

Additional Reading: James 1:19-22, Luke 8:4-18

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

***Next week's sermon text:** we turn to **Jonah** "The Need for Repentance"