

Directional Devo
The Epistles to Timothy
2 Timothy 4:2-22
2/24/16

v.2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

We should always be ready to preach the Word of God.

In season and out.

When it's convenient and when it's not.

Cf. Acts 1:4-9

The entire purpose of the filling of the Holy Spirit was, and still is, to share the gospel!

Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Acts 9:17-20 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." (18) Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. (19) So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. (20) Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

Acts 13:9 Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

Yet, many today in the church think that it was to speak in tongues and other manifestations of the Spirit.

The Bible doesn't say or bear that out anywhere.

vv.3-4 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.

This means that the day will come when they don't want to hear the truth anymore, but what they want to hear.

As a matter of fact, they'll go so far as to select only teachers that will tell them what they want to hear.

Thus, they will begin to believe their own fiction.

Illustration: elections, Facebook, etc.

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

In other words Timothy, be vigilant in your calling.

Yes, **afflictions** will come, but they are no excuse.

Do what God has called you to do. That's all that He asks any of us for.

Part of that calling is ***to do the work of an evangelist.***

That goes with v.2 when he was told to preach the Word.

No, we do not hold the office of the evangelist as per Eph 4:11, but we are all called to preach the gospel by doing ***the work of an evangelist.***

In doing so he concludes that we will fulfill our ministry.

He is not going to hold me accountable for your calling; only for mine.

You ***fulfill your ministry*** and I'll fulfill mine, Lord willing.

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

Paul knew that his life and ministry were almost over

He told the Philippians *Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all* (Philippians 2:17).

He even admitted to them that he was looking forward to it when he said *For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better* (Philippians 1:23).

Shortly after the letter he was beheaded

v.7 *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

It should not surprise us that the Christian life is compared to a **good fight**.

1 Timothy 6:12 *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

It is also compared to a **race** that must be **finished**.

He compares them both in Corinthians

1 Corinthians 9:24-26 *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. (25) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. (26) Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.*

He concludes that only by doing so will we keep **the faith**.

v.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.*

This crown is for those who look for and long for the Second Coming.

To look for and to long for means to LIVE for!

The Scriptures reveal that there are actually four other crowns that can be awarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Crown of Life – Jms 1:12

Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Th 2:19

Imperishable Crown – 1 Cor 9:25

Crown of Glory – 1 Pet 5:4

True Companionship

vv.9-11 *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.*

Notice that he desired true companionship.

You know, there are very few friends in this life.

We throw the term around loosely, but there are very few.

Illustration: Two men were out hunting in the northern U.S. Suddenly one yelled and the other looked up to see a grizzly charging them. The first started to frantically put on his tennis shoes and

his friend anxiously asked, "What are you doing? Don't you know you can't outrun a grizzly bear?" "I don't have to outrun a grizzly. I just have to outrun you!"

Illustration: What is a friend? Friends are people with whom you dare to be yourself. Your soul can be naked with them. They ask you to put on nothing, only to be what you are. They do not want you to be better or worse. When you are with them, you feel as a prisoner feels who has been declared innocent. You do not have to be on your guard. You can say what you think, as long as it is genuinely you. Friends understand those contradictions in your nature that lead others to misjudge you. With them you breathe freely. You can avow your little vanities and envies and hates and vicious sparks, your meannesses and absurdities, and in opening them up to friends, they are lost, dissolved on the white ocean of their loyalty. They understand. You do not have to be careful. You can abuse them, neglect them, tolerate them. Best of all, you can keep still with them. It makes no matter. They like you. They are like fire that purges to the bone. They understand. You can weep with them, sing with them, laugh with them, pray with them. Through it all--and underneath--they see, know, and love you. A friend? What is a friend? Just one, I repeat, with whom you dare to be yourself.

vv.12-16 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.

Notice Paul's forgiving heart. Oh, may we have that same heart for those who do us harm.

vv.17-18 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!

There's the answer!

Salutations

vv.19-22 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.

Salutations and Benediction