

Preachers and evangelist and other normal people.

2TI 4:1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

1. This is God's charge. Notice the authority given to it.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom,

Notice the potency there. In God's presence, In Jesus presence then a statement of future role – He will judge all, He will come back and it is His kingdom we are talking about. The credibility and integrity we talked about a couple of weeks ago. – Well it doesn't get any more credible than this.

It is with this credibility Paul says to Timothy – do your job. Remember Tim is timid, shy, scared, not sure if he can handle the job. With this kind of statement He knows where the credibility comes from. He knows God has gifted him, He knows He can do what He is called to do.

2. Tell it the people.

² Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.

Important for us to know here is that the word we translate as preach means to proclaim. I've said that before.

The concept of preaching in the New Testament was not of official, standing up behind a pulpit and teaching for ½ an hour. Preaching in the NT is any proclamation of Jesus Christ. Let's bring that into perspective. Kid's Church teaching is proclaiming Jesus Christ to kids – the teachers are preaching. Youth Group (LINK) leaders are preachers. In fact the youth who tell their friends about Jesus are preachers.

Our concept of preaching is so far removed isn't it. Preaching these days is a performance on the gospel, a lecture about the theology, a statement of doctrine. The real proclaiming is done one on one and personal like. Real preaching and proclaiming has taken a back seat to performance, intellectual exercises and waffle.

Preachers evaluate themselves and categories themselves. A real preacher or a teacher or an evangelist, or a lecturer or maybe even a motivator. Me – I want to be a proclaimer. I just want to tell people about Jesus. Sure I need to do those other things as well, but really my job is proclaiming Jesus. Anything less – is not good enough.

Now I am not putting down those other aspects but if we are preachers, teachers, motivators or lecturers who don't proclaim – we are not doing what this verse tells us to.

Lets look at the rest of this verse.

Be prepared in season and out of season

I wasn't aware that we had preaching season. Is it like football and cricket? Should I only preach in summer or is winter my season?? Is it an outdoor season or indoor??? What this is saying is that we need to be ready to talk about Jesus any time. That's pretty straight forward stuff isn't it. Be ready to talk about Jesus. Or maybe the season thing is be ready to preach when you are prepared – like in the middle of netball season when your fit or when your not fit– out of season. Just be ready.

What about this next bit. **Correct, rebuke and encourage with patience and careful instruction.**

This bit is a little bit tricky. Remember we are talking about telling people about Jesus. The correcting is not flat out telling people they are wrong, telling them how to live their lives – it is about saying what they think about Jesus may not be accurate. Let's put it into the context of the passage. It relates to the proclaiming and preaching. It is about helping people to understand about Jesus.

Tell them what Jesus is about, point out what they don't understand, encourage them to know more, be patient and careful how you tell them. Mate there is a lot of common sense here isnt there.

3. Now why do we need to do this???? Because people will get it mixed up and look other places for answers/

³ For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

The time will come – the time has come!!!

Look what it says to suit their own desires. They will make up what they want so they are comfortable. They will listen to what they want to hear only. Let's be realistic, we all do that to a certain degree. We hear the parts of a sermon we like or that affect us. But this is talking about deliberately changing the truth to suit themselves. Sounds very New Agey. Sounds very post modern, sounds like now. Gather round them people who say what they want. Its like we want to hear what makes us feel good so we buy books that we like and gather information that makes us feel good. We watch certain TV shows to make us feel good. It may not be good for us, but we do it. Now books, TV shows etc are OK if they don't turn us away from the truth.

4. But what about me, what about us???????

5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

I like this, keep your head. Be in control, stay cool. I think part of what He is saying is Stick with the truth, stick with what you know to be the truth. Even when it is tough.

I also like this – do the work of evangelist. Timothy was a pastor, He had a care and concern role. But here Paul spells out that even as a pastor – do evangelism. Notice he then tacks on – discharge all your duties of your ministry. But he specifically points out evangelism. Why??

I think we see a New Testament principle here. Everyone is an evangelist. Just as every bit of talking about Jesus is preaching or proclaiming as we have learnt, everyone evangelizes. Evangelism comes from the greek word that just means good news. In a christian context that good news has come to mean the good news about Jesus in peoples lives. So to be an evangelist is just to be a speaker about how Jesus impacts our lives. Anyone who tells someone else about Jesus is an evangelist. Grandmothers telling their grand kids, friends in the school playground, neighbors over the back fence. Whoever. We are commanded to do the work of an evangelist.

Hang on you say, this is Paul talking to Timothy not me. Oh yeh, what about last weeks final verse. **16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking,**

correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

If we accept that then we can honestly say that this concept applies to us.

So – do the work of and evangelist – a good news teller – a preacher – a proclaimer of Jesus. It applies to us all, from the youngest girl in Girls brigade to the oldest person here and includes me and you – all of us.