

*Paul's*  
*2nd Letter to*  
**Timothy**



**Lesson 4-Faithful unto Death – Preaching the Word**

**Focus: 2Timothy 4:1-22**

➤ **The Preaching of the word (v.1-5)**

- God's ministers are instructed to "preach the word"! We are not to spend our time with fables, mere fluffy stories, entertainment, politics, or other things. Instead, we are to preach the pure and powerful word of God! We should not depart from its pure message in the slightest!
- The Bible says the time will come, and it has now fully come, when people would depart from the words of the Living God and would seek after pleasing things and smooth words! These ones cannot stand to keep "sound doctrine" or to follow such as God actually teaches us, but they just raise up a bunch of teachers who tell them exactly what they want to hear! They are not so concerned about what God wants them to hear and do. Instead, they just want to follow some kind of god of their own imagination, and not the true God of the Bible. These people just follow their own personal preference, and imagine their own kind of God, many while even daring to call themselves by the name of "Christian." **Therefore we are commanded to be faithful to God, and ministers are commanded to preach the "word" of God! They are to know it well and to thoroughly proclaim its full message—"doing the work of an Evangelist" and making "full proof" of their ministry (v.5).**

➤ **Paul's Testimony and Expectation (v.6-8)**

- (v.6,7) Paul had done a faithful work and lived a faithful life for God. He was now expecting that the time of his death was at hand, yet he was at peace with that. He knew well, beyond a shadow of a doubt that he had done God's will in the ministry, he had performed a faithful work and was fully accepted of God. **He had "kept the faith" and now he was at peace.** Paul was one who always strove to have "a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men" (**Acts 24:16**). Having lived his life in this way, he was able to say, "I have kept the faith," and he was also able to know that he had obeyed the voice of God, walked in His holy ways, and kept peace with God through Jesus Christ! **Keeping a pure conscience towards God is essential to living a successful life in the faith of God** (See 1 Tim. 1:5,19; 3:9; also 1 John 3:18-21,22). Those who live a life of dishonoring God, and not keeping the faith, will have a conscience that is defiled and insensitive to the voice of God and His word (See 1 Tim. 4:2). Those who have lived in their sins, not fearing or obeying God, will never be able to true confidence before God, but only a false assurance should they be conned or deceived into believing that they are okay. But we should not be fooled!! Those who obey the voice of God will be accepted by Him as partakers of the saving grace, mercy, and power of Jesus Christ. But,

those who live in sin (though they may even be deceived into thinking they are okay, will perish at the coming of the Lord). (See **Matthew 7:21-23**). It is the “doers of the word” who shall be accepted before God as faithful ones and overcomers, but those who live in disobedience to God are only deceiving themselves (no matter by what name they are called, or by whatever “good works” they have mingled with their wickedness.)! (See James 1:22; Revelation 3:21). **Paul could say with true confidence that he had done the will of God and been faithful to our Lord and Savior!** *The Holy Spirit bore witness with his own spirit that he was a true, faithful, and sincere child of God. He was filled with God’s eternal peace!* (See Romans 8:1,14-16; 5:1). *We can have such sweet assurance before God, truly knowing that we are His when we obey Him and live for Him in Christ!*

- (v.8) Paul expected to receive his rewards together with the other believers of God, at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ! He would receive those rewards at the same time as the others when Jesus would appear to resurrection the sleeping saints (See 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17). All shall receive these rewards at the same time when we rise to meet Jesus Christ. None are to receive them before. See also Hebrews 11:39,40.

➤ **Final words of instruction (v.9-22)**

- (v.9-11) Many of the other workers had now moved on to other places. Paul was left only with Luke. Some had forsaken Paul and the ministry, such as Demas (now that stronger persecution had arisen against the truth, for they loved this present world more than God and His eternal life). **Let us be careful not to do the same!!** Paul, who had previously had a bad experience with Mark, was now ready to accept him as a fellow laborer together with God, and was longing to heal the old wound of many years. Let us aim also to make right our relationships with others inasmuch as is possible (for there are always two sides to a relationship). (See Acts 15:38-41 about the early contention Paul and Mark had experienced).
- (v.12-18) Paul was asking Timothy to bring him some needed supplies. He also warned about the enemies of God and characters who had done much evil to him. Some had not been faithful to help and support Paul in the work, but rather fought against the work of God (v.14-16). Yet, God is faithful to preserve us even from “the mouth of the Lion,” that is Satan (See 1 Peter 5:8). So, we should not fear, but only trust in the Lord! Satan tried to attack, kill, and stop Paul many times, but every time God had delivered him! God is faithful to us!
- (v.19-22) Paul here gives some final greetings and admonitions or charges, then says goodbye. **Thus end the written words of the Apostle Paul! That is the last that we have on record of him counseling, speaking, and doing his ministry! He died faithfully in the Lord!** *Tradition tells us that he was beheaded in Rome sometime soon after but we know not the date precisely. Let us be faithful to death, even as he was!*

*Question (s) for the Heart:*

**Will you choose to know God and be faithful unto Him (even to death, by His grace)? \_\_\_\_\_**