

Paul's Charge To Timothy And Welfare

4:1-22

- These may be the last words ever written by Paul.
- These words come from a man who had lived for Christ and was facing imminent death at the hands of the Romans in about A.D. 64 to 68. See Introduction of 2 Timothy.
- The mandate given Timothy is applicable to all who proclaim the gospel, and has application to Christians in general who faithfully live for Christ.

Paul's Charge To Timothy

4:1-2

2TI 4:1 I solemnly charge you in the presence [sight] of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

- This basic charge is found in 2 Timothy 2:14 and 1 Timothy 5:21.

2TI 2:14 Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of [before] God not to wrangle about words, which is useless, and leads to the ruin of the hearers.

1TI 5:21 I solemnly charge you in the presence of [before] God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality.

1. "I solemnly charge you" - "Charge" is a mandate - not a suggestion.
 - a. "I solemnly charge" is from "diamarturomai" [dee ah mahr **too** rah mi] meaning, "I charge, warn, testify, bear witness."
 - b. This is a charge that must not be ignored or performed in a heart-hearted manner.
2. "in the presence of [before] God and of Christ Jesus" - This charge is issued in the presence of God and His Son, and should be received with this realization.
 - a. This charge has the approval of Deity and must be received as a charge from the Lord.
 - b. Paul had received his call from the Lord with whole-hearted dedication. (Acts 9:15, 16).
3. "who is to judge the living and the dead" - 'living and dead" (Acts 10:42; 1 Pet. 4:5).
 - a. Jesus is the Judge. (2 Cor. 5:10; Acts 17:30-31; Matt. 25:31-46; Rom. 2:16; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; 1 Cor. 4:5; 2 Cor. 4:5; 2 Thess. 1:-9). God created "all things" through His Son, and He will judge men through His Son. (Gen. 1:1; Jn. 1:1-3; Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10).
 - b. Whether alive or dead none will escape Christ's judgment. It is for all mankind.

c. Paul was not fixing a date for this event.

1) He did not know when it would come. (Matt. 24:36).

2) No one today knows the time of the Lord's coming. It could be today or many, many years or centuries in the future.

4. "and [both] by His appearing and His kingdom" - in view of His coming and receiving His kingdom. (1 Cor.15:20-28). Jesus is coming to receive His kingdom and deliver it to God.

- "appearing" is from "epiphaneia" [eh pee **fah** nay ah] meaning "appearance."

a. Christ is coming again. (Jn. 14:3; Acts 1:8-11; Heb. 9:28).

b. All, living or dead, will be judged by Christ and the faithful will be given eternal life in the heavenly kingdom.

c. The dead will be raised and the universal judgment will follow. (Jn. 5:28, 29; Acts 17:30, 31).

d. The wicked will be cast into hell. (Matt. 25:41, 46; 10:28;13:41,42; Rev. 20:14,15; 21:8).

e. Christ will come exercising His absolute authority as King and will bless the righteous and will overcome His enemies and cast them into hell.

1) He is now reigning at the right hand of God. (Acts 2:33; 5:1; 7:55, 56; Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3, 13).

2) He now has "all authority in heaven and on earth." (Matt. 28:18).

3) His enemies will be defeated at His coming. (Matt. 22:44; Acts 2:35; 1 Cor. 15:25). This will not be a challenge for the omnipotent Christ who is coming with "all" His angels. (Matt. 25:31).

4) The "last enemy" to be destroyed is death. (1 Cor. 15:26).

1CO 15:26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

5) The resurrection will forever end death. Death will no longer exist. (Rev. 21:4).

REV 21:4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away. "

6) Matthew 10:28 means the wicked will suffer eternal punishment.

MAT 10:28 "And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy [devote to eternal misery] both soul and body in hell. The Greek "apollumi" [a **pahl** loo mee] does not mean annihilation, but has the idea of being devoted to eternal misery. (Matt. 25:41, 46).

Five Imperatives

2TI 4:2 preach [proclaim] the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

1. "preach the word" - He refers to the inspired word of God. It is the source of faith. (Rom. 10:17).

- a. It was to be publicly and privately proclaimed without apology or compromise.
 - 1) “kerusso” [kay **roos** soh] means “to proclaim by order of his Superior.” As already affirmed the Great Commission is from the One who has “all authority in heaven and in earth.” (Matt. 28:18).
 - 2) Opinions, traditions, human feelings were not to be preached, but he was to proclaim what his Superior [the Lord Jesus Christ] commissioned Him to preach.
- b. It is “the word” of God that must be preached without changing God’s inspired message.
- c. Timothy must give account for His responsibility to faithfully proclaim the word.
- d. It is by the gospel message that we are saved. (1 Cor. 1:21; Jas. 1:18, 21).

1CO 1:21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

JAM 1:18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.

JAM 1:21 Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

2. “be ready [urgent, prepared] in season and out of season”

- Gr. “ephistemi” [eh **fis** tay mee] means “be ready, to be at hand [instant].”
 - a. McCord has “Be ready in good and bad times.”
 - b. It could also be rendered “be ready when it is convenient and when it is not convenient.”
 - c. He must never tire or let up proclaiming the saving message of God. He must never lose his sense of urgency even in bad times or when it is not convenient.

Note on the Word

1. We are commanded to preach the word. (Mk. 16:15,16; Matt. 28:19,20; Rom. 1:16).
2. It is the source of faith. (Rom. 10:17; 1 Cor. 4:16; Jn. 8:31,32).
3. It is the power of God. (1 Cor. 1:21; Rom. 1:16; Jas. 1:18, 21).
4. It is the source of authority. (Col. 3:17; Isa. 55:8, 9; Heb. 2:3).

3. “reprove, rebuke, exhort”

- a. “reprove” is from “elegcho” [eh **lehg** koh] means “bring to light, correct, expose, refute.”
 - b. “rebuke” is from “epitimao” [eh pee tee **mah** oh] means “rebuke, reprove. warn, censure, punish.”
 - c. “exhort” - is from “parakaleo” [pah rah kah **leh** oh] means “exhort, encourage.”
4. “with great patience and instruction” - These words modify the three previous words.

- a. The faithful evangelist must exercise patience, that is, being slow to wrath and slow to give up.
- b. He must continue to patiently give “instruction” realizing that change does not always come quickly.
- c. He does not compromise the message to bring about change, but faithfully continues to preach the message of God.

Many Hearers Will Not Love The Truth

4:3,4

2TI 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound [healthy] doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires;

1. “For the time will come”
 - a. Paul had forewarned ,the elders from Ephesus, there would be a departure from the faith. (Acts 20:17, 28-30).
 - b. We later learned that many at Ephesus had left their “first love.” (Rev. 2:1-7).
 - c. This appears to be reference in Revelation 2 to lukewarmness - not a departure from the faith.
 - d. This departure from the faith [men having ears that wanted to be “tickled”] was imminent.
 - 1) This warning was applicable in Paul’s day and in the generations to come.
 - 2) Men in every generation despise “sound doctrine” and secure teachers would will satisfy their evil desires.
 - 3) Believers must stand for “sound doctrine” - live it, teach, stand firm in it.
2. “when they will not endure sound doctrine”
 - a. “They” is not defined and could refer to some or many.
 - b. “endure” has the idea of accept or even tolerate. In fact many will hate and reject the gospel.
 - c. “sound doctrine” (1 Tim. 1:10; 4:6; 6:3; 2 Tim. 1:13; 2 Tim. 4:3; Tit. 1:9; 2:1). “hugiano” [hoo gee **ah** noh] means “sound, healthy.”

1TI 1:10 and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,

1TI 4:6 In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.

1TI 6:3 If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness,

2TI 1:13 Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

2TI 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires;

TIT 1:9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

TIT 2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.

3. “but wanting to have their ears tickled” - They have ears itching for a pleasing message, that is, a message that will satisfy their lusts. See Jere. 5:31

JER 5:31 The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule on their own authority; And My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it?

- a. They want to hear only what pleases them and pursue what is right in their own eyes.
 - b. They will ignore or replace teachers who do not proclaim what they want to hear.
4. “they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires”
 - a. There would be an abundance of teachers who would preach what they wanted to hear.
 - b. This has been true in every age, and it is certainly true today.
 - c. Many a preacher has compromised the message of God to please the audience and keep his job.

2TI 4:4 and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths [tales].

1. “and will turn away their ears from the truth” - “turn away their ears.”
 - a. This is a deliberate action.
 - b. The last thing they want to hear is “the truth.” (1 Tim. 4:1).

1TI 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

2. “and will turn aside to myths”
 - a. See 1 Tim. 1:4; Tit. 1:14; 1 Tim. 4:7.

1TI 1:4 nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith.

TIT 1:14 not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.

1TI 4:7 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;

- b. “Myths” are put in contrast to “the truth.” Everything false is in contrast to “the truth.”

The Work Of An Evangelist 4:5

2TI 4:5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

1. “But you, be sober in all things” - “sober” means “alert, level-headed.”
2. “endure hardship” - “kakopatheo” [kah kah pah **theh** oh] - “suffer hardship, suffer evil.”

- a. Being “an evangelist” most often means “hardship”[struggles, suffering, ridicule].
 - b. God has never promised a life of ease to those who seek to proclaim His word.
3. “do the work of an evangelist” - euaggelistes [you ang geh lee **stays**] - “one who preaches good news.”
- a. See Eph. 4:11; Acts 21:8 (See Acts 6:6; 8:4-40).
 - b. Timothy was “an evangelist” - not a pastor.
 - c. The word “pastor” [shepherd] is a different office than “an evangelist.” (Eph. 4:11).
 - 1) “Pastors” [shepherds] are also called “elders,” “bishops.” (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Tim. 3:1,2; Tit. 1:5; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23).
 - 2) “Elders” are also called as a body “presbytery” and “stewards” (1 Tim. 4:14; Tit. 1:7).
 - d. Though Ephesus had elders (Acts 20:17, 28), Timothy also had the responsibility to teach, reprove, rebuke exhort, etc.
 - e. This does not mean it was his responsibility only.
4. “fulfill your ministry” - Lit. “the ministry of you.” “diakonia” [dee ah kah **nee** ah] meaning “service, office.” NIV has “discharge all the duties of your ministry”
- a. “Evangelists” had duties to fulfill - “fulfill your ministry.”
 - b. Our modern use of the word “minister” comes from this expression “fulfill your ministry [service].”
 - c. As a “minister” and “evangelist” he had the divine obligation to faithfully preach the gospel.
 - d. He was to completely fulfill the work of proclaiming the good news of Christ.
 - e. The gospel is “the power of God unto salvation.” (Rom. 1:16).

Paul Was Finishing His Race

4:6-8

2TI 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure [death] has come.

1. “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering”

EXO 29:40 and there shall be one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with one-fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and one-fourth of a hin of wine for a libation with one lamb.

NUM 28:7 'Then the libation with it shall be a fourth of a hin for each lamb, in the holy place you shall pour out a libation of strong drink to the Lord.

- a. Sometimes wine and oil were poured on the head of a victim when it was about to be sacrificed.
- b. As wine was gradually poured out before the altar when various animals were sacrificed, his life was gradually being sacrificed and would soon end.

- c. Paul is saying that death is very close. Every preparation had been made.
- d. He is ready as Jesus has taught all of us to be.

2. “and the time of my departure [death] has come”

- a. He was in prison in Rome facing death.
- b. He knew his death was near and perhaps very near.
- c. He expressed his confidence in the Philippian letter. (Phil. 1:21-23).

2TI 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course [race], I have kept the faith;

1. “I have fought the good fight”

- a. He had fought against false teachers and had endure much opposition and faithfully proclaimed the word.
- b. He had experienced a host of problems as a Christian. (2 Cor. 11:23-27).

2. “I have finished the course” - He had not quit the race when men opposed him, but had kept running to the finish line. He knew the blessing of God was worth the pain and sacrifice needed to finish the race.

3. “I have kept the faith” referring to the gospel.

- a. See Eph. 4:5 “one faith”
- b. See also Acts 6:7; Gal. 1:23. “Faith” is used for the system of faith, the gospel.
- c. Paul had faithfully obeyed the gospel and had faithfully proclaimed it.
- d. He was totally committed to Christ. (Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21).

2TI 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

1. “in the future there is laid up for me the crown [wreath] of righteousness”

- a. “crown of righteousness” refers to the wreath bestowed upon him for being right with God and doing right.
- b. He had no doubt about his salvation.
- c. The imperishable victors crown would be his. (1 Cor. 9:25).

1CO 9:25 And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

- c. The crown is eternal life. (Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10). See also 1 Tim. 6:12; 1 Pet. 5:4.

JAM 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

REV 2:10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

1TI 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1PE 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

- d. "Crown" is from "stephanos." [**stehf** ah nahs] - "wreath, crown."
2. "which the Lord, the righteous Judge" - The Lord is "righteous" [just, upright] and He will fulfill His promises.
3. "will award to me on that day" - "On that day" refers to "the last day." (Jn. 6:39, 40, 44).
4. "and not only to me, but also to all who have loved [longed for] His appearing" [appearance].
 - a. Those who love do not have to fear the coming of the Lord (1 Jn. 4:18), but they can look forward to this glorious day.
 - b. "The crown of righteousness" is for all who "have loved His appearing."
 - c. The faithful look forward to the Lord's coming.
 - d. It will be a time of victory and of great rejoicing and a time of great blessings.
 - e. The early church was urged to pray for that coming. (Rev. 22:20; 1 Cor. 16:22).

REV 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

1CO 16:22 If anyone does not love the Lord, let him be accursed. Maranatha. [the Lord comes, our Lord, come].

- f. We should always "be ready, alert, watchful" for His coming. (Matt. 24:42; 25:13).

MAT 24:42 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

MAT 25:13 "Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

- 1) Jesus used the word "gregoreo" [gray gah **reh** oh] - "keep awake, be alert, be watchful."
- 2) We prepare ourselves for His coming by living daily for Christ.

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)

