

I thought it to be appropriate to use our time this morning to discuss the work that I look forward to getting done here. New works for a preacher can sometimes be difficult because he might not know what to expect upon his arrival. Not only might he not know what his role is or what to expect, but the new congregation he is a part of might be a little unsure of what he is going to be doing during the duration of this work with that particular church. Thankfully, we are not left in the dark on this issue. The Apostle Paul laid it out the work of an evangelist very clearly for us in **II Timothy 4:1-5**. So if you will please take out your bibles and let's examine this text and learn what exactly is expected of a man who dedicates his time and energy to the spreading of the Gospel.

Before we do that, let me say that this lesson can serve quite a few purposes. First off, it is a good reminder to me of what God expects from me as an evangelist. Just the same, it is a good reminder for the whole church of what to expect from the evangelist. Also, it is good for that young man who might be considering the work of an evangelist. Few people would go into a job without understanding what the job will require of them. So this is a good educational lesson for all. Lastly, you will notice that there is nothing in this text that is not mentioned in other places that would apply to any member of the Lord's church. We are all to be busy about the work of sharing our faith with those around us, and this text simply reiterates many of the traits that I'm sure many of you exemplify on a day to day basis. So let's begin this study of the work of II Timothy 4:1-5.

I. Preach the Word! (v.2)

A. Paul is not saying...

1. Preach your own opinions.
2. Preach the ideas of other men.
3. Preach only when it is convenient.
4. Preach only when people are willing to listen and accept.

A. Paul is saying...

1. Preach the message of the Gospel because that is what has the power to save. **(Rom. 1:16)**
2. Preach the word that can make the man of God complete. **(II Tim. 3:16,17)**
3. Preach the message, even if it causes you trouble. **(For I am not ashamed.... Rom. 1:16)**
4. You might have to seek out opportunities to share the message.
5. Those who suffer for the sake of righteousness will be rewarded with salvation. **(Matt. 5:10)**

A. This means you can expect...

1. Lessons that are understandable. I'm going to teach the application and principles of the text. **(Neh. 8:8)**
2. Scripturally based lessons.
3. Lessons on difficult and controversial issues.

I. Don't be afraid to take a stand. (v.2)

A. There will be times to reprove, rebuke, and exhort.

1. The evangelist must have the courage to take a stand against false teachings, immorality, and ungodliness.
2. Paul said that there will be times where people will not want to hear sound teaching.
3. Doesn't excuse me or any other evangelist from continuing to preach and the truth.

A. As an evangelist, there will be times when I'm going to have to say some difficult things.

1. There may be some false teaching that will need to be addressed.
2. There may be an issue that the elders ask me to address from the pulpit.
3. We might have to take a hard stand against any sort of sin within our group, but we must recognize that it is all in an effort to keep the church pure. **(I Cor. 5:1-8)**

A. Please understand that nothing will ever be said out of hatred for an individual.

1. Love for souls is a must for a Christian and maybe even more so for an evangelist.
2. Any rebuke said, regardless of how true or needed it might be, must be said out of love for the soul. **(Eph. 4:15)**
3. God, Himself, disciplines those whom He loves. **(Prov. 3:11,12)**

Preaching is a specialized form of the process of teaching that includes a motivated reaction to the information offered.

I. Keep your mind right. (v.5)

- A. NASB “be sober in all things.” NKJV “be watchful in all things.” NIV “Keep your head in all situations.”
- B. We must be watchful for anything contrary to the Gospel of Christ.
 - 1. If we are watchful and aware of things then we will know when it is the right time to speak against sin.
 - 2. We cannot do that if we are disconnected from those around us.
- C. We must maintain a proper mindset in all things.
 - 1. We must all remember that we are servants to one another.
 - 2. We are not to think more highly of ourselves that we should. We cannot be prideful.
 - 3. We should use sound judgement in all things. **(Rom. 12:3)**
- D. We must keep a pure and righteous mind so as to not be a hypocrite. This is the quickest way to use our influence.

I. Persevere through difficult times. (v.5)

- A. Keep a proper attitude.
 - 1. There are going to be difficult times, as a evangelist and as a Christian.
 - 2. The evangelist must stay positive if he and the church wants to make it through.
- B. There will be times when people will not listen. **(4:3,4; Acts 13:50)**
- C. There will be times when we might be persecuted for speaking the truth. **(Acts 14:19; 16:16-24)**
- D. But there will be times when those bad situations turn into something good. **(Acts. 16:25-33)**
- E. Always remember that God will not leave us. **(II Tim. 4:16-18)**

I. Be busy doing the work you have been given to do. (v.5)

- A. Some would semi-jokingly say that preachers only work two days a week, but that couldn't be farther from the truth!
- B. There is much work to be done as the man that fills this role within a local church, and there are really 3 parts to the work found in this text that also go along with the 3 names we usually hear associated with this position within the church. These 3 names are preacher, evangelist, and minister.
 - 1. The preacher or public speaker of persuasion must be busy preparing and presenting material that moves people towards Jesus and to obedience to His teachings. He must also establish strong relationships with the members so he can know what types of teachings are needed for the group. Nobody will listen to a strong sermon that is present by a man that they don't know cares for them.
 - 3. The evangelist must be busy taking the Gospel to those outside the body of Christ.
 - 3. The minister or one who cares for the needs of another must be busy serving the congregation and its individual members in whatever way he can.
- C. The man who fills this role must be busy about all the work he has been given to do if he wants to serve the church and the Lord the way Paul expected Timothy to work and serve.

From a study of this text, we understand that the work of the preacher is certainly not a three hour a week job. God expects much of those who decide to take on the work of an evangelist, and it is certainly not a work that is to be taken lightly. May God bless us all as we work together, and do our part to ensure our salvation and lead as many others as we can to the Lord!