

II Timothy 4:1-5  
Focus: Preach the Word

The CHARGE: Preach the Word! (1-2) ***This is critically important in these last days***

The seriousness of the charge – we will give an account (II Corinthians 5:10/Hebrews 4:12-13)

The season for the charge ***NOW! – we must be ready***

When? (Romans 1:16; 10:17) ***His Word & His Gospel are what change lives.***

Why? (Acts 20:26-27 / I Timothy 6:20-21 / Colossians 2:3, 8) ***People need the Lord***

The system for delivering the charge

For rebuking (Galatians 6:1 / I Peter 3:15) ***Gently – having 1<sup>st</sup> examined ourselves***

For encouraging (Ephesians 4:29 / II Peter 1:3-4) ***To give others courage***

The sensitivity needed for the charge

We need great patience – correction takes time – ***How many times does it take for you?***

We need careful instruction – His wisdom is required (James 3:1 / I Peter 4:12)

***We are speaking His Word! Rightly divide His truth (II Timothy 2:15)***

The CONCERN: His people being led astray (3-4) ***All of us need the correction that comes from His Word***

Sound doctrine will be rejected (Titus 2:1) – people still need to hear truth (John 17:17)

Selfish desires will be pursued (Micah 2:11) ***We like to think more highly of ourselves (Rm. 12:3)***

Seeking teachers to fit my beliefs? Do I change His Word or does His Word change me?

Setting aside the truth to follow myths ***TRUTH: I can do nothing apart from Jesus (Jn. 15:5)***

The WORD, the whole WORD and nothing but the WORD (Acts 20:27, 32)

The problem with topical studies ***If not carefully done – they lead to using the Word to teach our own preconceived ideas***

The CALL: Remaining faithful to His leading and purpose for my life (5) ***which includes evangelism***

Set your mind aright ***It is so easily persuaded and/or distracted***

It needs renewal (Romans 12:2) ***washed with the water of His Word (Eph. 5:26)***

It needs to be guarded (I Peter 1:15 / Philippians 4:6-7) ***lest we are deceived***

It needs to be focused (Colossians 3:1-4) ***My heart and mind on things above***

Share the GOSPEL – this is everyone's responsibility (Mark 16:15)

See to your calling – do not neglect the ministry(s) God has given you

## Discussion questions for I Timothy 4:1-5

Why is it so critical that we faithfully preach God's Word in these last days? (Amos 8:11-12 / II Timothy 4:3-4 / Acts 20:26-27) ***It will become increasingly difficult to find the true preaching of His Word. And His Word is the only things (along with His Spirit) that can transform lives. More and more people will turn away from His Word, wanting to hear the things that satisfy the flesh. We cannot change hearts, but we will be held accountable for sharing God's truth to others.***

Why is the manner in which we preach or share God's Word important? (Colossians 4:5-6 / I Peter 3:15-16 / Romans 2:4) ***The gospel is offensive we should not be. We must be careful of our manner even as Paul became like those to whom he shared the gospel so as not to cause offense (I Corinthians 9:19-23). Making sure our hearts are right with the Lord, we must show respect, gentleness and kindness to others, our conversation seasoned with salt and filled with grace.***

What will characterize the teaching of the last days? (II Timothy 4:3-4 / II Peter 3:16 / Jude 4) ***Teaching that appeals to the flesh. (such as health and wealth or creating emotional experiences). The truth of God's word will be watered down and distorted. God's grace will be twisted to become an excuse for licentiousness. Teachers will tell stories rather than teach truth. They will look for Scripture verses to support their own ideas, rather than allow the truth of His word to change what we believe and how we live.***

What is important for us personally in these last days? (II Timothy 4:5 / Galatians 6:7-10 / Ephesians 6:10-18) ***We must stay true to our calling. God will not be mocked, if we choose to satisfy the flesh we will be judged. We must live by the Spirit – not giving up, but continuing to seek the good of others. We will need the armor of God, and everything we do must be covered in prayer. We are all called to do the work of an evangelist.***

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Why is the manner in which we preach or share God's Word important? (Colossians 4:5-6 / I Peter 3:15-16 / Romans 2:4)

What will characterize the teaching of the last days? (II Timothy 4:3-4 / II Peter 3:16 / Jude 4)

What is important for us personally in these last days? (II Timothy 4:5 / Galatians 6:7-10 / Ephesians 6:10-18)

**II Corinthians 5:10** “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done in the body, whether good or bad.”

**Hebrews 4:12-13** “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

**Romans 1:16; 10:17** “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes:” “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”

**Acts 20:26-27** “Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.”

**I Timothy 6:20-21** “Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith.”

**Colossians 2:3, 8** “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” “See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.”

**Galatians 6:1** “Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.”

**I Peter 3:15** “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

**Ephesians 4:29** “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

**II Peter 1:3-4** “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

**Titus 2:1** “You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.”

**John 17:17** “Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth”

**Micah 2:11** “If a liar and deceiver comes and says, ‘I will prophesy for you plenty of wine and beer,’ he would be just the prophet for these people!”

**Acts 20:27, 32** “For I have not hesitated to teach you the whole will of God.” “Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

**Romans 12:2** “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

**I Peter 1:13** “Therefore, prepare your minds for action: be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

**Philippians 4:6-7** “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

**Colossians 3:1-4** “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”

**Mark 16:15** “He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.’”