

## 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Fundamentally what do you think your role is?

This is the last in a series of charges issued by Paul that run throughout the letter.

1. In 1:8 there is the charge to join in suffering
2. In 1:14 there is the charge to guard the gospel
3. In 2:3 there is the charge to suffer for the gospel
4. In 3:14 there is the charge to continue in the gospel
5. In 4: 2 there is the charge to proclaim the gospel

### Structure

In (1) Paul establishes the context for Timothy's ministry: and that context is judgment

In (2) Paul describes the task of Timothy's ministry: and that task is proclamation

In (3&4) Paul outlines the challenge to Timothy's ministry: and that challenge is disinterest

In (5) Paul the demands of Timothy's ministry: and that demand is endurance

Let's look at (2),

2 preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage  
– with great patience and careful instruction.

What is Timothy commanded to do?

What is he to preach?

But when is he to do it?

But what does preaching the word in season and out of season look like?

But how is that to be done?

Now surrounding that central charge, the Apostle Paul places three qualifying statements. They describe:

- the context for that ministry,
- the challenge to that ministry and
- the demands of that ministry.

Let's look at them in turn.

### 1. Preach the word in the light of Christ's judgment (1)

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 in the face of congregational disinterest (3&4)

3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather round 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.

### 3. Preach the word in all likelihood of personal temptation (5)

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

## Conclusion

And we preach the word of God

- In the light of the imminent judgment by the Lord Jesus Christ who will hold both us and our hearers to account for the way that we've responded to his gospel.
- In the face of congregational disinterest who will typically prefer to be told what they want to hear rather than what they need to hear
- In all likelihood of personal temptation to quit because there's a path of least resistance that doesn't involve endurance