

Being a Minister for Christ

Lesson 8

2 Timothy 3:10-4:5

May 16, 2021

Know the Scriptures and Be Prepared to Speak

Introduction

Paul had been preaching the gospel for probably over 30 years when he wrote this letter to Timothy. Paul converted from being a brilliant young Pharisee eager to convict Christians to the most prolific and widely traveled evangelist of his time. He'd traveled hundreds of miles, started many churches, and suffered many trials. From his prison cell toward the end of his life, Paul encouraged Timothy to lean on Scripture and preach the gospel as he had done for so long.

Drawing on his own experiences, Paul's warning to Timothy was to know that Christians' persecutions and sufferings would continue since people seldom like to hear the gospel's convicting yet freeing words. They'd rather continue being deceived and only listen to what they want to hear. As a result of this, persecution exists, and perseverance is required to continue to spread the gospel.

How we carry out the task of declaring the work of Christ is of immense importance and eternal consequence. Will we take the comfortable and easy path of least resistance, or will we stand on the truth of the gospel and declare the work that Jesus completed?

Memory verse: "Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction."—2 Timothy 4:2

Pray and read 2 Timothy 3:10-4:5. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. What did Paul say would happen to anyone that pursues Christ? (2 Timothy 3:12)
2. For what is Scripture useful? (2 Timothy 3:16)
3. What is the main command that Paul gave Timothy? (2 Timothy 4:1-2)
4. When did Paul say that we should be spreading the gospel? (2 Timothy 4:2)
5. How should we respond when people reject the gospel? (2 Timothy 4:3-5)

What does the passage mean?

1. Based upon the experiences of Paul and other believers, what kind of life should Timothy be expecting? (Matthew 16:24-27; Philippians 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:10-12)

2. What did Paul tell Timothy about the inevitability of persecution? What does the existence of this persecution say about the world itself? (John 15:20; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-14)

3. Why did Paul describe Scripture as “God-breathed”? What does that term mean? (Genesis 2:7; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21)

4. Why is Scripture so essential in doing the work of God? (Psalm 1:1-3, 37:31, 119:9-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

5. What did it mean for Timothy to preach the Word both “in season” and “out of season”? Is there a time when the Word should not be taught? (2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Peter 3:15)

6. What verbs and action words did Paul use to describe what Timothy and the church should be doing to spread the gospel? What does this tell us about the nature of sharing the gospel with others? (2 Timothy 4:2-5)

Applying the passage

1. Are you aware of the persecution of Christians around you? What about the persecution of Christians around the world? Do a search on the internet for “Christians persecuted today” and read some of the articles you find. Pray for a few minutes for the Christians in the countries that you read about. (2 Timothy 3:12-15)

