

TIMOTHY 2 LAST WORDS

THE URGENT PRIORITY OF PREACHING

...a faithful minister's preaching content

January 17, 2024

2 Timothy 8:1-8

2 Timothy: This was Paul's final letter, written from prison to his beloved son in the faith. Paul wrote with **confidence** in the promises of the gospel, **deep affection** for his spiritual child, and **urgent concern** for the church's health and mission. He called Timothy to follow his example of **fearlessness** in suffering and **faithfulness** in gospel ministry.

Theme Verse: 2 Timothy 2:2 *What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.*

Text: 4:1-8 Paul charged Timothy to **fulfill** his ministry by the priority of preaching the "breathed-out" word of God. Paul **warned** Timothy as to the reasons **why people would reject** preaching the word.

Coram Deo: HFC must hold to the priority of "preaching the word." We must stand in **contrast** to those who oppose or modify God's truth. And, we must consistently fulfill our ministry as we long for Christ's appearing.

WHY IS PREACHING THE WORD SO ESSENTIAL?

I. PREACH THE WORD: BECAUSE OF THE KINGDOM PRIORITY.

2 Timothy 4:1-2 *I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.*

1. Do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord (2 Timothy 1:8).
2. Hold fast the pattern of sound words (2 Timothy 1:13).
3. The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men (2 Timothy 2:2).
4. Rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).
5. A servant of the Lord must be... able to teach (2 Timothy 2:24).
6. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16).

In the Presence of God and of Christ Jesus: What happens when a preacher/church forgets their **primary audience**? How might HFC be **tempted** to modify the priority of preaching and turn to a **consumer-driven** strategy for church success? What is at stake?

II. PREACH THE WORD: BECAUSE OF WHAT IS AT STAKE.

3 *For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

In the Presence of God and of Christ Jesus: Why are human desires the **gateway** to departing from truth? Why is the world so fixated upon relativism and **self-actualization**. How does this affect our preaching?

III. PREACH THE WORD: BECAUSE OF URGENCY AND REWARD.

6 *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth 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.*

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus: How urgent and necessary is our preaching ministry at HFC? Do we "love Christ's appearing" in a way that affects our perseverance in God's Word? Does our urgency speak well of our faith and call the younger generation to action?