



## End of the World Part 6

**Key Text: 2 Timothy 4:1-7**

In the end, the temptation is strong to take the easy road. People naturally desire to hear teaching that affirms their desires rather than the hard road of following Christ.

### Setting the Scene:

- Last words can be weighty. They give us a picture that helps us look into the heart or a measure that helps us evaluate life.
- Paul is facing impending death, and he was reminding Timothy that everyone will go before Jesus, in the end, to be judged. This text reminds believers to do things carefully and faithfully and a reminder to not be fearful of man as you do it.
- This is a reminder to keep going even as you face difficulty.

In The Last Days, we need to be a part of family Believers that ...

### 1. Preach the Word! (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

*aitia* (*aitia*, 156), "a cause, accusation," is rendered "charges" in Acts 25:27, to make a solemn affirmation, protest; to make a solemn and earnest charge, Lk. 16:28; Acts 2:40; to declare solemnly and earnestly, Acts 8:25; 18:5 [1263] See testify; warn.<sup>1</sup> (Think, "I solemnly witness.")

The word *preach* suggests vigorous proclamation! Paul wanted Timothy to be bold and passionate. It was up to Timothy to preach the gospel so that the Christian faith could spread throughout the world.<sup>2</sup>

Other translators say, "Preach like a Herald." In Paul's day, a ruler had a special herald who made announcements to the people. He was commissioned by the ruler to make his announcements in a loud, clear voice so everyone could hear. He was not an ambassador with the privilege of negotiating; he was a messenger with a proclamation to be heard and heeded. Not to heed the ruler's messenger was serious; to abuse, the messenger was even worse. (Weirsbe, 783)

We are called to use every opportunity to preach the Word. Paul himself always found an opportunity to share the Word, whether in the temple courts, on a storm, sea, or even in prison.

- **Prepared:** It is easy to make excuses when we ought to be making opportunities.
- **Patiently Correct (Conviction):** We need to correct those in error with patience.

**Patiently Correct:** ἐλέγχω, (a) I reprove, rebuke: (b) I expose, show to be guilty, John 3:20, 1 Cor. 14:24, Eph. 5:11, 13, James 2:9.<sup>3</sup>

- **Rebuke (Warning):** It means to declare with authority, something has to be changed. Listen carefully!
- **Encourage (Appeal):** literally means to come alongside someone to come to their aid: you bring exhortation and favorable treatment. Timothy is being called to encourage his people to grow through the preaching of Word.

"He should afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted." - Author Unknown

<sup>1</sup> Mounce, W. D. (2006). *Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (p. 1121). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>2</sup> Barton, B. B., Veerman, D., & Wilson, N. S. (1993). *1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus* (p. 220). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>3</sup> Souter, A. (1917). *A Pocket Lexicon to the Greek New Testament* (p. 79). Oxford: Clarendon Press.

## 2. Stay True to the Word. (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

Our Job in approaching God's Word is to discover its meaning, not to insert our own meaning.

Three Myths People Buy Into:

- There is No Divine Authority.
- There is No Absolute Truth
- There is No Personal Responsibility.
- Not only was Timothy a preacher, but he was a soldier who had to learn to endure all things.

## 3. Keep a Clear Mind In Every Situation. (2 Timothy 4:5-8)

- **Keep a Clear Mind**- Listen to God, listen to the right voices, Fill your mind with Good things.
- **Do not be afraid.** -Those who follow scripture will have to endure suffering. We know in scripture that hardship, suffering, and persecution will increase in the last days.
- **Work at Telling Others** – Have a heart for soul winning.

<sup>5</sup>As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 2 Timothy 4:5 (NIV)

- Paul concludes by stating that Cesar is not taking his life but that He is choosing to give his life for the gospel's sake.

**One Last Thought:** Finish the race God has called you to. Fight to finish, don't give up! Remain faithful, and you will receive a crown of righteousness.