

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

2 Timothy 4:1-5 – The Necessity of Preaching

As is his custom, Pastor Bret will begin the new year with a sermon on the importance of preaching in the life of the church. The rest of January will cover other spiritual disciplines in the life of the church, and we will resume our study of 1 Corinthians in February.

In addition to the weekly sermon-specific homework during January, we strongly encourage you to go through the 1 Corinthians Overview for New Semesters (posted on the class website at <http://summitwoodschurch.org/sermonstudy>).

❖ Day 1

This week we will be focusing on 2 Timothy 4:1-5, but throughout his three letters to the young pastors Timothy and Titus, in paragraph after paragraph Paul wrote about the importance of knowing, preaching, and living out the sound doctrine of the Word of God. Indeed, the centrality of the preaching of God's Word is prevalent all across the entirety of the Scriptures.

1. Read Acts 6:1-4, Romans 10:13-14, and Titus 1:1-3. How do each of these passages demonstrate the vital necessity of preaching?
 - a. Acts 6:1-4

b. Romans 10:13-14

c. Titus 1:1-3

Now read 2 Timothy 4:1-5.

The sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined> (and the imperatives are double-underlined). Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the supporting clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

¹I 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:
²preach the word;
be ready
in season
and out of season;
reprove,
rebuke,
and exhort,
with complete patience and teaching.
³For 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,
⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth
and wander off into myths.
⁵As for you, always be sober-minded,
endure suffering,
do the work of an evangelist,
fulfill your ministry.

2. Who are the “I” and “you” in this week’s passage?
3. Paul does not just say “I charge you” but also brings in God and Christ Jesus as witnesses. How should this (especially Christ’s second coming to rule and to judge) magnify the weight Paul wants this charge to have on Timothy?
4. This passage contains two sets of imperatives. List the five imperatives in the first set in verse 2. List the four imperatives in the second set in verse 5.
 - a. The first set:

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

b. The second set:

5. People can “preach” any number of things, but what does Paul say must be content and foundation of faithful preaching at the beginning of verse 2?
6. Based on 2 Timothy 3:16-17, why does Paul instruct Timothy to “preach *the word*”?

❖ Day 2

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5 again.

7. Scholars differ on whether “in season and out of season” in verse 2 refers to Timothy (whether he feels like it or not) or to the hearers (whether they want to hear it or not). In either case, how does this phrase demonstrate the importance Paul places on preaching?
8. Based on the last three imperatives in verse 2, what should be Timothy’s goal in his preaching?
9. Define these three words and explain how each one should be part of faithful preaching.
 - a. Reprove

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

b. Rebuke

c. Exhort

10. According to the end of verse 2, what is required of the faithful preacher?

11. Why do you think it was important for Paul to include this “how” with his instruction to preach?

12. Restate verse 3 in your own words.

13. According to verse 4, what is the consequence for those who abandon sound teaching that is firmly grounded in God’s Word?

❖ Day 3

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5 again.

Summit Woods Baptist Church

First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

14. If people “turn away from listening to the *truth*,” what does that imply pursuit of their passions will lead them to listen to instead?
15. How does the first set of imperatives relate to the preaching that the people in verses 3-4 need to hear?
16. In what ways do you see people in the church at large today looking for teachers who will say what they want to hear to the neglect of “sound teaching”?
17. What sort of warning should verses 3-4 be to us in the congregation, and what impact should that warning have on us?
18. Verse 5 begins with “as for you,” setting Timothy in contrast to the wanderers in verse 4. Look again at the four imperatives in the second set in verse 5. How would obedience to these commands protect Timothy and keep him focused on “preach[ing] the word”?

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

19. How should Paul's exhortations to Timothy in verse 5 inform your prayers for our Elders?

20. How do Paul's instructions in this whole paragraph show that faithful preaching is about more than the accurate transmission of information?

21. How can we in the congregation engage with our Elders' preaching in ways that would minimize the "patience" and "endur[ance of] suffering" required on their part?

22. How has this lesson emphasized the importance of faithful preaching in your own life?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that the men who preach to us would faithfully and patiently reprove, rebuke, and exhort us with the sound doctrine of God's Word. Pray for us as a congregation to love and value God's Word so that we do not wander off from the truth in pursuit of our passions.