



Sunday, June 30, 2019

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to 2 Timothy 4:1-8

If you knew you only had a brief time left to live, what would you want to communicate to the people you love? Most likely, you would want to communicate your love to them. But what else would you want to say? For those who follow Jesus, we would want to share about how much He has meant to us and exhort our loved ones to persevere in following Him too.

That is not far off from what the Apostle Paul wanted to communicate to Timothy, whom he considered his “son in the faith” (1 Tim. 1:2). But even beyond an exhortation to persevere in walking with Jesus, Paul wanted to make sure that Timothy persevered in the ministry to which he was entrusted. Certainly, Paul had a good sense that it was not just for his own sake or even his own local congregation’s sake that Timothy had to persevere, but indeed for generations of Christians to come, Paul understood how crucial it was for Timothy to persevere. Likewise, it is important that we persevere, not only for our own sakes, but for the sake of whatever ministry God has called us to.

Context

This passage is the final main teaching section Paul offers in this letter. His concluding statements (4:9-22) are of a more personal nature. Since this is the final main teaching section, Paul ties up many of the themes he has already been talking about—the glory of Christ and the certainty of His judgment, the need to endure suffering with patience, the nature of the present evil age in which we minister, the hope laid up for us in heaven. All of these things have come up time and again and now Paul wants to reiterate them so as to sear them into Timothy’s mind. In fact, his final exhortation to Timothy (“fulfill your ministry”) beautifully completes the argument he began with in 1:6, with his first exhortation (“fan into flame the gift of God”).

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8

“Preaching”

2 Timothy 4

(v. 2) Preach the Word

(v. 5) Fulfill your ministry

Why? In light of the...

(3:16) Nature of Scripture

(v. 1) Presence of God

(v. 1) Coming of Christ

(v. 3) Inclination of Humanity

How?

(v. 2) Constantly

(v. 2) Comprehensively

(v. 2) Patiently

(v. 2) Didactically

You must fulfill your ministry (1-5)

I have fulfilled my ministry (6-8)

(v. 6) I am...departing soon

(v. 7) I have...finished my course

(v. 8) I will...receive a reward

Discuss

- 1) Pastor Don made it clear that while 2 Timothy was written directly to Timothy, it has applications for all Christians. In light of that, what is your ministry that you must fulfill?

- 2) Would you say you are always ready to speak the truth of God's word to the people around you in any given circumstance ("in season and out of season")? Why or why not?

- 3) Does your experience corroborate Paul's—that many people seek teachers who "say what their itching ears want to hear"? What do people in your life "want to hear"?

- 4) When you think of Jesus' coming (His "appearing and kingdom"), is that a good thing or a bad thing in your mind? Why?

- 5) Are you as ready to die as Paul was? Why or why not?