

“Are You Listening”
2 Timothy Chapter 4:1-5

Verses 1-4: **“Preach the word:** Preaching is the God-ordained means to prevent defection from the truth. “Teachers” who appeal to “itching ears” tell people what they want to hear, not what they need to hear.

“I charge thee”: Or better **“command.”** Before God and the Lord Jesus Christ”: Everyone who ministers the Word of God is under the omniscient scrutiny of Christ [2 Corinthians. 2:17](#); [Hebrews. 13:17](#) **vow**

We all pledged to serve God through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ you and made a **vow** = oath, pledge, promise, bond, covenant, commitment, [Ecclesiastes 5:5](#), [Deuteronomy 23:21](#), [2 Corinthians 3:6](#), [2 Corinthians 6:4](#),

“Christ, who shall judge” Paul is emphasizing the unique accountability that all believers, and especially ministers of the word of God, have Christ as Judge. [John 5:22](#)

Service to Christ is rendered both under His watchful eye and with the knowledge that as Judge He will one day appraise the works of every believer [1 Corinthians. 3:12-15](#); [4:1-5](#); [2 Corinthians. 5:10](#)

That is not a judgment of condemnation, evaluation. Regarding salvation, believers have been judged already and declared righteous, they are no longer subject to the condemnation of sin [Romans. 8:1-4](#).

The quick and the dead”: Christ will ultimately judge all men in 3 distinct settings:

- 1) The judgment of believers after the Rapture ([1 Corinthians. 3:12-15](#); [4:1-5](#); [2 Corinthians. 5:10](#));
- 2) The sheep and the goats’ judgment of the nations, in which all believers will be separated from all unbelievers for entrance into the millennial kingdom; [Matthew. 25:31-33](#)
- 3) The Great White Throne judgment of unbelievers only ([Revelation. 20:11-15](#)).

“His appearing”: Here, Paul is referring generally to Christ’s second coming, when He will judge “the living and the dead” and establish His millennial and eternal kingdom [1 Timothy. 6:14](#).

The **“quick”**, (in the verse above), are speaking of those who will be alive at the coming of the Lord. [2 Timothy 4:2](#)

“The word”: “The entire written Word of God, His complete revealed truth as contained in the Bible [Acts 20:27](#)

“Being instant in season and out of season” The faithful preacher must proclaim the Word when it is popular and/or convenient, and when it is not. When it seems suitable to do so, and when it seems not is just saying stay ready all the time. Preach whenever and wherever you have the opportunity.

“Reprove” and “rebuke” mean to tell a fault. When you see a brother in error, tell him. [Matthew 18:15](#)

“Exhort” can mean to pray, comfort, or draw near. This is just saying not to get weary in preaching to those who are afar off. Preach to them, pray for them, in love, tell them of their errors, and then preach to them again. Do not give up, until they draw nigh unto God. Have patience with them and they will hear and receive.

[2 Timothy 4:3](#) **“Not endure”:** This refers to holding up under adversity, and can be translated **“tolerate.”** Paul here warns Timothy that, in the dangerous seasons of this age, many people would become intolerant of the demanding preaching of God’s Word ([2 Timothy 1:13-14](#); [1 Timothy 1:9-10](#); [6:3-5](#)).

“Having itching ears”: Professing Christians, nominal believers in the church follow their own desires and flock to preachers who offer them God’s blessings apart from His forgiveness, and His salvation apart from their repentance.

They want to be entertained by teachings that will product pleasant sensations and leave them with good feeling about themselves. (*When you hear me say its tight but its right*)

Their goal is that men preach “in accordance to their own desires” Under those conditions, people will dictate what men preach, rather than God dictating it by His Word.

Sound doctrine teaches walking each day in the salvation Christ has provided for you. Sound doctrine teaches living a holy separated life to God. Sound doctrine is the Word of God.

There is a great falling away in the church today, not only in the physical sense, but in the spiritual sense, as well. Many go to church but want to hear a message of nothing but God's love. They would tell us not to speak against adultery or homosexual activity, because we will hurt some of the member's feelings.

The sermon that appeals to the flesh of mankind, is preaching to itching ears. I would say the time Paul was speaking of in the verse above is here. Not many want to hear about the blood of Jesus. Not many want to know that Jesus is Judge, as well as Savior.

2 Timothy 4:4 "Fables": This refers to false ideology, viewpoints, and philosophies in various forms that oppose sound doctrine 2 Corinthians. 10:3-5; 1 Timothy. 1:4; 4:7; Titus 1:14; 2 Peter. 1:16.

We all need to devote more time to the study of God's Word (Bible). The Word will straighten out our thinking and we will not be so easily swayed with messages that Paul would classify as fables.