

II Timothy, Sermon #28

II Timothy 4

I've entitled this two-part series "Preaching That Pleases God"

In verse 2, we have a mandated activity—a command—to preach
It also tells us what to preach! The Word of God

God never told Timothy to study demographic data, do market research, take a poll, or
to see what the congregation's felt needs were
God told him to preach the Word.

II Timothy 4

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

II Timothy 4:1-2

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

Preaching That Pleases God

How to preach to please God:

#1 – Preach accountably

Verse 1 points out the seriousness of a forceful order—I charge thee.
Before God and Jesus Christ—they are the onlookers—the witnesses

The preacher is accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ

Every minister who is called by Jesus Christ constantly ministers under the eye of Jesus Christ

A preacher's ultimate accountability is not to a board, a local church, a denomination, or any other human institution, but to the Lord, who has called and empowered him and who one day will judge him.

Who is going to be judged? The preachers

Who is the Judge? Jesus Christ.

What is He judging? He's going to judge the preaching.

When is He going to judge? Vs. 1

“At his appearing and his kingdom”

Christ's appearing and His kingdom are not the same thing.

His appearing is the rapture of the church—epiphany

His kingdom refers to the revelation of Christ when He returns to earth to establish His kingdom.

Verse 1 tells of the preacher's accountability

That he must preach to please God and not man

Jesus, are you pleased with the preaching?

He is not preaching for the crowd,
He is preaching for Christ.

The Apostle Paul was constantly in controversy—his detractors demeaned him; they said he was not eloquent enough

I Corinthians 2:4-5, *“And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”*

Faith not in men but in God

Here is what Paul said:

Galatians 1:10, *“. . . do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”*

Folks, what should it be?

Man's approval or God's approval when it comes to preaching?

I Thessalonians 2:4, *“But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”*

We all know that “Preaching has fallen on hard times.”

But so many preachers are intimidated—phone calls, letters, e-mails, threats, and loss of job

When a preacher fears man: *“The fear of man bringeth a snare, but whoso puts his trust in the Lord shall be safe”* (Proverbs 29:25).

The fear of man is gone when he realizes and becomes accountable to Jesus Christ.

God told Jeremiah: *“Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them”* (Jeremiah 1:17).

God gives the nature of Jeremiah’s preaching (you preach what I tell you) and, second, a warning not to be dismayed at their faces—literally, don’t break down in front of them, don’t cower

“Be not afraid of their faces” (Jeremiah 1:8).

God told Ezekiel, *“And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house”* (Ezekiel 2:6)

When a preacher is afraid of people, he is afraid of the wrong person; God demands his preachers to be fearless.

Preaching glorifies God when the preacher preaches for the approval of God—not men.

The preacher is not an actor looking for the approval or applause of people

A preacher preaches with the consciousness of God and has to be prepared to be judged according to his faithfulness to this charge.

How to preach to please God—**#1**—preach accountably

#2 – the preacher must preach accurately—the Word of God (vs. 2)—no more and no less

In order to preach accurately—

“Study to shew thyself approved [acceptable] unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” II Timothy 2:15 (approved unto God)

The use of Scripture should be as precise, accurate, and appropriate as possible. Careless use of Scripture can do great damage to the cause of Christ, as it often has done throughout church history.

II Corinthians 4:2, not to handle the Word of God deceitfully

Preach the Word

That kind of ministry pleases God.

This is the centerpiece of every Biblical philosophy of ministry – preach the Word.

This should be a key component of every church.

The preacher's task is to proclaim Scripture—not easy because the message is hard and offensive—it's difficult to say.

The message of the cross is a stumbling block to some and foolish to others.

But, the calling is to preach the Word.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd – and pastors are undershepherds

The Bible says, *“Take heed, therefore unto yourselves (Elders) and to all the flock over which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers (Bishops), to feed (Sheperds) the church of God which He hath purchased with His own blood”* Acts 20:28.

That's a warning to pastors.

They are to feed the flock.

We have so many anemic, malnourished Christians because they know only a little of the Bible.

Preach the Word (the whole counsel, not selective portions) and let the chips fall where they fall, preach with authority,—preach the Word accurately.

#3 – Vs. 2, Be instant, be prepared, like a microwave, be ready with no hesitation
This word literally means **to be present**, not to hide in the background—but show up

#4 – Preach continuously – vs. 2 – in season, out of season – convenient, not convenient.

Faithful in and out of season, whether it is popular or not
Regardless of climate (atmosphere), no matter what is going on, when it is tolerated or not tolerated.

#5 – Preach applicably

The tone of preaching
Reprove, rebuke—negative tone
Exhort, encourage—positive tone
All to come out of the preaching

vs. 2 – **reprove** means to convict and convince—correcting misbehavior
This helps a person understand that sin is sin.

Preach like he means it. Luke 3:18-20, John the Baptist reprovved Herod

vs. 2 – **rebuke** is a strong reprimand, to censure
This helps a person understand that he is in sin. When Peter was done preaching, the Bible says the people were cut to the heart, Acts 2.

Isaiah 58:1 – *“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet and show my people their transgression.”*

That is what a preacher is to do.

He has to connect and make contact, confront the people!

★Bible preaching will offend sin and sinners.

“There is no peace,” saith my God to the wicked.

Should people who are living in sin come to church and be comfortable?

Too many preachers are more worried about being non-offensive than people dying and going to hell.

The first two of those three admonitions are negative—2/3 is negative

This modern day philosophy of being non-offensive in the pulpit is unbiblical.

The perfect model of this is Jesus Christ. Look at the sermons of Jesus, God’s condemnation of sin, judgment of sin. Sinners need to repent.

God’s minister, like God’s Word, must reprove sin and falsehood

Then, in verse 2, it says—exhort with all long suffering, patient encouragement

This means to draw alongside the church people – balance preaching – preaching with love.

Need a little balm, salve, in the preaching

Pastors should never take their flock to surgery without also taking them to the recovery room.

Preachers are to speak the truth in love.

Preach and lead the flock – with compassion.

★Compassion is the word of today’s church – love people. ★

But let me remind you that, compassion minus conviction = compromising.

And that won’t wash with God.

How will God's people keep the rules on how to live if preachers don't keep the rules on how to preach?

Vs. 2, exhort with doctrine—the Word of God—encourage with the Scripture

Acts 7 – Stephen

Did he preach

accountably – like God was his witness?

the Word authoritatively – preach with passion and conviction?

accurately – started in the Old Testament

applicably – did he connect? Reprove, rebuke, exhort

vs. 54 – when they heard these things they were cut to the heart.

That was preaching that pleases God.

Preach the Word

Preach continually

Preach accurately

Preach authoritatively

Preach accountably

Preach applicably

Look at verse 2—The Word

Preach translates the first of nine imperatives God uses in this passage, five of them in verse 2 (preach, be instant, reprove, rebuke, exhort) and four in verse 5 (be sober, endure, do fulfill).

It is a pity that many churches have substituted other things for the preaching of the Word, things that may be good in their place, but that are bad when they replace the proclamation of the Word.

Preaching—nothing can take its place.

So, preach to please God.

Let us stand for the closing invitation.

Christian, do we want to hear the Bible preached? Do we have a hard time receiving the Word of God?

Submit and obey the truth.

Don't reject it.

Don't run off somewhere where you'll get to hear something sweet to your ears.

Settle down and let the Word of God have its way.

Maybe you're here—you're not saved and you are a sinner.

Jesus wants to save you and cleanse you from your sin.

Won't you pray right now – Ask Him for forgiveness of your sin and to save your soul?

Whatever God has laid on your heart today, this is your time to pray.

We cannot postpone the settlement of that question.

This Bible speaks of a Heaven to be gained and a Hell to avoid.

It presents a way of life and how to live it; an eternal salvation and the one way to receive it.

Can any sensible person facing this question wisely postpone his answer to God?

Today is the day of salvation

To the preachers in this congregation, let us remember our calling – I Timothy 3:1,

II Timothy 4:1

We are visible to God

We are responsible to God

We represent and are accountable to God.