

Sermon Notes & References
Core 5: Scriptural Exposition
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
August 22, 2010

- A. August messages: ^A
 - 1. 'Why should I go to church?'
 - 2. Past three Sundays: purpose of assembling ourselves together
 - a. to know Christ and to make Him known
 - b. to encourage servant leadership
 - c. to equip the saints for service
 - 3. today: *Scriptural exposition – the study and instruction in God’s word – is the basis to achieve these purposes in the church.*
 - 4. Scripture reading of the text, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
- B. A-1: Assurance of the Scriptures 3:14-15
 - 1. Timothy’s training^B
 - 2. His personal faith^C

- C. A-2: Application of the Scriptures 3:16-17
 - 1. its scope
 - 2. its profitability
 - 3. its accomplishment
- D. A-3: Apostasy from the Scriptures 4:3-4
 - 1. the warning
 - 2. the ear-ticklers
- E. A-4: Announcing the Scriptures 4:1-2, 5
 - 1. a solemn oath ('adjuration') shown by
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - 2. centred on announcing the scriptures; its aspects are
 - 3. to do this requires
- F. Conclusion – in times like these^D

^A Hebrews 10:25
^B Acts 16:1, 17:14-15, 18:5, &c, 2 Timothy 1:5
^C 1 Timothy 1:12

^D Mark 13:7-8, 2 Timothy 3:1-5

A. Introduction

1. our messages for August have this for a theme verse: 'not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.'
(Hebrews 10: 25)
 - a. we have been looking at the Core 5, the principle elements of our philosophy of ministry – our answers to the question
 - b. 'Why should I go to church?'
 - c. a question asked even by believers; born-again Christians
 - d. even if it isn't said out loud, it is spoken by actions

2. in the past three Sundays
 - a. we have been concentrating our messages on the purpose of our assembling ourselves together as Christians
 - b. along the way, we have noted that this is not just coming to a Sunday morning worship service; rather it is taking advantage of the various times that we as a body of believers assemble to learn and to serve – Sunday, yes; for prayer and Bible study in homes; for outreach to children in Awana and VBS; and so on
 - c. the three core purposes for our assembling, given thus far:
 - (A) to know Christ and to make Him known – proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, drawing nearer to Him
 - (B) to encourage and to train for servant leadership – that we may follow the example set by Jesus Christ
 - (C) to equip the saints – God's people – for service that the body of Christ, the church, be built up in love

3. this Sunday and next
 - a. we are looking at the means to achieving these purposes provided in the church to those gathering together
 - b. today we look at the first means: scriptural exposition – ongoing reading and study of God's word as

the basis for

- (A) growing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ
 - (B) encouraging and training future servant leaders
 - (C) equipping the saints for service that builds the church
- c. in ministry, scriptural exposition means a systematic study of God's word – not cherry-picking favourite topics
- (A) by this God's eternal truth is applied both to the life of the body of believers and to individual lives
 - (B) so that God's word gives us direction as a church
 - (C) and that God's word directs you in your life and faith

4. « Let us read our text for today, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 (NKJV) »

- a. the NT letters to Timothy and Titus are commonly called the pastoral epistles, because these two men – men who had travelled with Paul on his missionary journeys – were pastors; they were shepherds of God's flock
 - (A) Timothy in the city of Ephesus in Asia Minor (Turkey)
 - (B) Titus on the island of Crete
- b. though written to these pastors, the contents of the letters show that they were meant to be shared with the church
- c. these letters lay out God's philosophy of ministry – how God wants the servant leaders of the body of believers to carry out their service to Himself and to the church
- d. they tell how God wants the church to follow such leaders
- e. and, these letters give a basis by which the body of believers can distinguish between true and false shepherds, the standards to for choosing leaders in the church
- f. our outline to help us to remember the lesson has 4 A's
 - (A) Assurance of the Scriptures
 - (B) Application of the Scriptures
 - (C) Apostasy from the Scriptures
 - (D) Announcing the Scriptures

- B. A-1: Assurance of the Scriptures 3:14-15
1. ¹⁴ You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (NAS, from here on)
 2. Timothy had a Greek father and a Jewish mother
 - a. perhaps then with Jews as now with Christians, they were sought for spouses as being chaste and faithful
 - b. Timothy's mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois, were certainly faithful, and had come to Christ in sincere faith
 - c. it would have been from these women that Timothy would have learned the sacred writing: the OT Scriptures
 - (A) he would have learned of the one true God
 - (B) he would have learned of the promised Messiah Christ
 - (C) he learnt from **childhood** – indeed the word stronger than that: it was from babyhood, from earliest infancy
 - (D) back through all his conscious past, Timothy would remember being taught the Bible
 - (E) he would have learnt much of it by heart
 - d. because of the character of those from whom he learned the scriptures, he had an assured reliance upon God's word
 - e. for this reason we teach God's word, encouraging that they be memorized, to the children in SS and Awana
 3. But there was an even more personal reason for his assurance
 - a. an assurance that called for his persevering continuance in such dependence upon Bible truth
 - b. that reason was what he had learned in the sacred writing
 - c. he had gained wisdom and the preparatory understanding
 - d. the understanding which lead him to the acceptance of Jesus Christ as his own personal Saviour
 - e. the relationship to Christ was accompanied by God's Holy Spirit, giving further assurance of the Scriptures, one based upon his personal experience of the indwelling Author

- f. as the chorus of the hymn says
 You ask me how I know He lives,
 He lives within my heart!^{-(2)}}

C. A-2: Application of the Scriptures 3:16-17

1. ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
2. Note first the scope of the application of Scriptures
 - a. all Scripture – all the writings
 - b. there are some who would include in this term many other books than the Bible, under the claim that all writers share in having inspiration
 - c. there are many profitable books to be read, and if read judiciously, they can give us great insight and learning
 - d. but in the previous verses Paul has already defined the writings that he means; they are the sacred writings; they are the holy Scriptures, the word of God; for him, the OT
 - e. to these we can now add the NT which Peter declares as equal in authority to the OT Scriptures
 - f. so, from Genesis to Revelation, every part of God’s word is intended for Christian study and application
3. The application of the Scriptures is profitable
 - a. they are for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training
 - b. To what end; with what objective and goal? Why?
 - c. for training in righteousness
 - d. in Jesus Christ, by His death, and by the regenerating work of God’s Holy Spirit, we are made righteous; having been accounted in God’s ledger books as righteous
 - e. beside our debt of sin there has been written because of Christ’s death and resurrection, ‘Paid in full!’
 - f. but the NT is very concerned that the righteousness we possess inside would work itself to the outside in new life
 - g. the application of God’s word profits to this end

4. The application of Scriptures accomplishes God's purpose
 - a. last week our message was of the men that God gives to the church so that believers may be equipped to minister, and in turn, that the church may be built up in love
 - b. in particular, it is the application of Scripture that equips a person to become a godly man or woman for this goal
 - c. Vince Lombardi is a famous football coach. He is said to have begun the first practice of each season by standing before his hulking players, holding up a football, and saying, 'This is a football ... have we lost anybody?' In many churches today we could say, 'This is the Bible ... have we lost anybody?'—^{3}.
 - d. it is only by the application of God's word that we as a church and as individuals can know to do the will of God; otherwise, we are headed towards ...

D. A-3: Apostasy from the Scriptures 4:3-4

1. ³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.
2. consider briefly these sad words as a warning
 - a. there is a woman talk show host on television that teaches the New Age religion
 - b. unfortunately, many Christians hear her and enthuse over her and think that she is a Christian and what she says is Christian truth; it isn't; it's unsound, unhealthy doctrine
3. here are some ear-ticklers on which some teachers have dwelt
 - a. these are things upon which the Bible is deliberately silent
 - (A) the date of the return of Jesus Christ
 - (B) the location of the garden of Eden; or of heaven
 - (C) the identification of the anti-Christ
 - b. many people will go to hear such myths and fables
 - c. A college dean, also a Sunday School teacher, attended a large church, with its pretty music, its pleasant service, its brief and impassioned message. The people were friendly and hugged each other at the end. But, he noted, only a handful of those present carried Bibles. The sermon had not made a single

reference to Scripture. He left empty.—^{4}.

d. from the August, 2010, NTM@work magazine: 'A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to a person who isn't.'

e. we need God's word that the Holy Spirit convict us and keep us from falling away, from apostatising.

E. A-4: Announcing the Scriptures 4:1-2, 5

1. ¹ I solemnly 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: ² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. ... ⁵ But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2. what Paul now has to say to Timothy, to pastors and teachers

a. is introduced by a most solemn statement, an oath in form

b. oaths are important – they have to be observed

(A) for example, if you are testifying in court, or in the U. S. Congress, you are under oath

(B) that means that you must tell the truth, and, if you fail to do so, then you face very severe penalties

(C) a well-known ball-player is finding this out right now

c. this oath is one in which the burden of fulfilment lays not on Paul but upon those who hear: upon Timothy, upon pastors and teachers, upon the church of God

d. the solemnity of this oath is emphasized in three ways

(A) it is given 'in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus'

(1) we are summoned into the court of heaven

(2) there our marching orders are announced before Almighty God, and the man Christ Jesus

(B) then, we are reminded that this man is the One who is appointed by God 'to judge the living and the dead'

(1) there will be no escaping His judgement

(2) believers must answer to the one redeeming us by the shedding of His own blood for us on the cross

(C) and last, the oath is sworn upon this spiritual reality, 'by His appearing and His kingdom:'

- (1) that Christ has appeared and will appear again
- (2) that the kingdom of God already begun in the church, will be brought to its final, perfected state

3. this charge centred squarely on announcing the Scriptures

- a. **preach the word** – proclaim it; shout it out if necessary, but in any case make it known to all
 - (A) do not come to church to hear opinions or interesting experiences; nor to a book review; nor the latest psychobabble; no, none of these
 - (B) in a true church you should hear ‘thus saith the Lord’
 - (C) the primary responsibility of the church of Jesus Christ is to hold forth the Scriptures, the word of life
- b. and when? Timothy was told to ‘**be ready in season and out of season**’ – it is not just a time scheduled on Sundays
 - (A) **A deacon was convicted about engaging in personal evangelism, in giving verbal testimony, rather than simply trying to live an exemplary life. He prayed opportunity. At the airport a fellow passenger began sharing with him all his trials and difficulties, ending by saying that he was even contemplating suicide, and asked ‘What shall I do?’ The deacon sat there stunned, then bowed his head quickly, and prayed, ‘Lord, give me a sign! Please give me a sign!’^{5}.**
 - (B) we don’t need a sign: every occasion is an opportunity for announcing the truth from God’s word
 - (C) it has been said that a pastor should be ready to preach, to pray or to die at a moment’s notice
- c. what is the message the pastor and teacher should speak?
 - (A) its not to be simply what people want to hear; it has to be the truth as the Holy Spirit lays it upon his heart
 - (B) this is one reason for preaching or studying through a book: you cannot avoid the unpleasant topics nor pass by the difficult questions in favour of pleasant words
 - (C) he is to **reprove** – correct the sheep who is wandering away from path of safety
 - (D) he is to **rebuke** – chasten the one who sinned to bring them to repentance and obedience
 - (E) he is to **exhort** – by the word of God strengthening and encouraging those who are weak or undecided
- d. and this, we see, is to be accompanied by patience and an explanation that teaches God’s word

4. Paul concludes this section, with the message
 - a. **be sober**, or perhaps better, **be watchful in all things**
 - b. take your responsibility seriously, like a man on guard
 - c. if there are difficulties, then **endure hardship**
 - d. by this you will fill up to the full your ministry
 - e. this is the ministry you should expect and pray for to come from those who pastor and teach in this or any church

F. Conclusion

1. We live in troublous and perilous times
 - a. much of what the Bible foretells as being signs of the last times, of the days when Christ's return is imminent, we can see all around us
 - (A) ⁷When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be frightened; those things must take place; but that is not yet the end. ⁸For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will also be famines. These things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. (Mark 13:7-8)
 - (B) and from this chapter in 2 Timothy, 3:1-5, ¹But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ²For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.
2. If we are to heed this warning
 - a. to face these days with faithfulness
 - b. then we need to have our lives solidly grounded in Christ
 - c. a grounding that will come as we individually and we as a church body conscientiously read and study God's word
 - d. in times like these.

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AV	Authorized (King James) Version
ERV	The Revised Version of 1885
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RSV	Revised Standard Version © 1946, 1952 by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.
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2. *He Lives* by Alfred Henry Ackley (1887-1960)
3. *Have We Lost Anybody?* By Larry B. Elroy, Kerux illustration #19758
4. *Using the Bible in Discipleship and Worship.* By Gene C. Fant, Jr. Kerux illustration #34220.
5. *You Don't Need a Sign*, adapted from Kerux illustration #1382