



“Keeping The Faith” (II Timothy 4:1-8)

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I. THE CHARGE: PREACH THE WORD

A. Because God Will Judge The Living And The Dead

1. The dead refers to those who are not saved (Eph.2:1ff; Rev.20:11-14).
2. The living refers to those who are saved.
 - The Prodigal was “dead and is alive again.”
 - John 5:24; Eph.2:4
 - II Cor.5:6-10

B. Because Only The Truth Of God’s Word Offers Hope To The World

1. See Jeremiah 23:28-32; Hebrews 4:12.
2. We are not to be preaching psychology, ear tickling theology, or personal opinions.

II. THE CHALLENGE

A. It Will Not Get Any Easier To Stand For And Proclaim Truth (vv.3-5)

1. What do you believe about sexual immorality?
 - Heb.13: 4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.
2. Homosexuality?
 - See Lev.18: 22 "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is *detestable*.

- 8441. tow'ebah, to-ay-baw'; or to'ebah, to-ay-baw'; fem. act. part. of H8581; prop. something disgusting (mor.), i.e. (as noun) (an abhorrence; espec. idolatry or (concr.) an idol:--abominable (custom, thing), abomination.

3. Abortion?

- Psalm 22: 10 From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.
- Psalm 139: 13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

4. Biblical discipline for children?

- Prov.13: 24 He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.
- Prov.22: 15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.
- Prov.23: 13 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. 14 Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.
- Prov.29: 15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

5. The roles of the man and the woman in marriage?

- Eph.5: 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

6. Alcoholism (not a disease)

- Galatians 5: 19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; *drunkenness*, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- Note: God has always had the answer for the alcoholic and the drug addict. The answer is the same today as it has always been. It's the same answer as for the adulterer, the pervert, the thief, the murderer, etc...
- I Cor.6: 9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

7. Modern psychology and the Word of God?

- See MacArthur, Hoekstra

B. Potential Realities Of Standing For And Proclaiming Truth

1. You will be considered a fool

- Jer.5:30-31; Hosea 9:7-8; John 7:50-52; Acts 26:24.

2. No one will listen

- See Ex.7:2-4; Moses tried to get out of going in the first place (Ex.3&4), so this was not encouraging news!
- See I Kings 22:6-28
- Everyone wants a ministry like Haggai had (see Haggai 1:12)

3. People listen, but do nothing about what they've heard (Ezekiel 33:30-32; Matthew 6:20).

4. God calls you to speak His word to people you hate (Jonah).

5. Physical harm/death

- See Luke 4:13-29
- John the Baptist and Herod
- Matthew 10:36
- Eccl.11: 4 Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.

C. Paul Would be Leaving Timothy Soon

1. The word *departure* (2 Tim. 4:6) is a beautiful word that has many meanings. It means “to hoist anchor and set sail.” Paul looked on death as a release from the world, an opportunity to “set sail” into eternity. The word also means “to take down a tent.” This parallels 2 Corinthians 5:1–8, where Paul compared the death of believers to the taking down of a tent (tabernacle), in order to receive a permanent, glorified body (“house not made with hands”— a glorified body, not a “mansion” in heaven). *Departure* also has the meaning of “losing a prisoner.” Paul was facing release, not execution! “The unyoking of an ox” is another meaning of this word. Paul had been in hard service for many years.
2. Paul had been standing for and proclaiming truth for some 30 years. This makes it very personal for me, because I have been here at CCSP for almost 30 years. Give public charge to the church, my kids.

III. THE CROWN

A. Reward As A Result Of Persevering Faithfulness

- Acts 20: 26 Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.

B. The Reward Will Make Any Sacrifice Worth It (Rom.8:17)

CONCLUSION

- The charge to us is to stand for the Word of God, to herald it unashamedly, fearlessly, and faithfully until the end. If we fail to do so, we will see more and more congregations made up of comfortable, professing Christians, listening to comfortable, religious talk that contains no real truth.
- Will you make a commitment to stand for and proclaim truth, no matter what the cost?
- Isaiah (6:8-11); Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Daniel, etc.