

THE CHARGE!
2 TIMOTHY CH4:1-5

ILLUSTRATION

Usually in Court whilst preparing to give evidence, a person will have the opportunity to place their hand on the Bible and swear an oath which usually consists of the following: "**do solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that the evidence I shall give shall be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God.**"

Why? In the hope that someone who is giving witness testimony and swearing an oath to God, will motivate people to tell the truth and not lie, whilst also bringing into sharp focus, they may well lie in Court and get away with it, by you cannot lie to God and get away with it!

OVERVIEW

The patient preacher will need to –

Know his most powerful weapon - v2

Be motivated by the right means - v1

Understand the responses – v3 - v8

Work as part of a team – v9 - v21

PRESENCE OF THE CHARGE! V1

The Gospel – Ch1:10 - As the patient preacher Timothy is to have the gospel at the centre of his ministry. He has had a great start Ch1:4-5, a great teacher Ch1:13, a great enabler Ch1:14.

In Ch1:6 Paul makes an initial appeal to Timothy “to fan into flame the gift of God” but this was by the issues relating to the false teachers in Ch2:14 – Ch3:9, so once again Paul comes back to his original appeal by picking it up in Ch3:10, and now presents it in a solemn charge in Ch4:1, followed by 9 imperatives (authoritative commands) with 5 in v2 and 4 in v5!

Paul knows he is about to die! This charge, made with the backdrop in Ephesus in mind, looks far beyond that! Here, there is the actual changing of the guard, the passing of the baton and the time for death and therefore, this charge has to be read with these things in mind!

Timothy is solemnly charged by Paul to fulfil his God given ministry to “.... devote himself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching” (1st Timothy Ch4:13), especially because it is the end of Paul's life on earth!

The solemnity of the charge is fourfold:

In the Presence of God!

In the Presence of Christ Jesus

In the Presence of Christ the judge of all

In the Presence of the appearing of Christ and His Kingdom

This charge is meant to bring into sharp focus the coming of Christ again, His judgement

and Kingdom, to motivate Timothy to keep fighting, to keep running the race and to remain faithful to the Gospel! What a charge!

WHAT WILL MOTIVATE TIMOTHY TO FINISH WELL?

V1 – IN VIEW OF HIS APPEARING

V8 – ALL WHO HAVE LONGED FOR HIS APPEARING

V18 – SAFELY TO HIS HEAVENLY KINGDOM

Paul wants Timothy to finish the race whilst living in this reality. What reality are we living in? Do we forget that Jesus could come back at anytime? There needs to be a focus and urgency in what we are doing, especially when it comes to handling God's Word. Paul wants Timothy to always be prepared to preach the Word. But as Timothy preaches the Word, Paul explains what to expect.

PROBLEMS OF THE CHARGE! V3-4?

V3 – NOT PUT UP WITH IT!

V3 – THEY WILL GATHER OTHER TEACHERS!

V4 – THEY WILL TURN AWAY!

V4 – TURN TO MYTHS!

V10 + V16 – DESERT!

V14 + 15 – OPPOSITION!

Press on in this Word-saturated, Gospel-laden, preaching and teaching, Timothy, because the day is coming when people will no longer accept your teaching and will leave your church and go and find teachers who scratch where they itch! And eventually they will wander off into myths (a widely held but false belief). Don't let this deter you. It is not a sign of your failure. So don't quit. Fulfil your ministry.

The root problem with those who reject sound teaching, and wander off into myths is not intellectual, but emotional. ***Paul does not say they won't endure sound teaching because of doctrinal confusion but because of itching.*** They leave because they itch (verse 3), and Timothy is not scratching where they itch. And Paul does not say they accumulate teachers to suit their own ideas; he says they accumulate teachers "to suit their own passions (desires)."

Underneath the rejection of truth is always something deeper, namely, desires, passions, that are being threatened — the itch. So don't just fight for truth at the intellectual level. Fight at the heart level. The emotion level. The desires. The passions. Pray that God would give you desires that welcome the truth.

PREACHER OF THE CHARGE! V2 + V5

- PREACH IN AND OUT OF SEASON V2
- CORRECT V2
- REBUKE V2

- ENCOURAGE V2
- WITH GREAT PATIENCE AND CAREFUL INSTRUCTION V2
- KEEP YOU HEAD V5
- ENDURE HARDSHIP V5
- EVANGELISE V5
- FULFIL YOUR MINISTRY V5

Timothy is to demonstrate these qualities as he remains in the thick of the fight, preaching the very Word of God, in and out of season, when it is received and when it is not received!

The Church could be in season and the preacher out of season!

The Church and preacher are both out of season, disastrous!

The Church could be out of season and the preacher in season!

The Church and preacher are in season together, what joy!

APPLICATION

Who should be the primary audience of the preacher?

What place does "Preaching the Word of God" have in our culture?

Why do you think that is?

Are you currently in or out of season?

Why?