

God's Command Is Our Mandate for 2008

II Timothy 4:1-5

Exactly what is the mission of the Church?

- Some say, "win the lost."
- Others say, "build up the believers."
- Still others say, "Glorify God."
- Also don't forget: the mission of the Church is to follow the New Testament, proclaim the gospel, and fulfill the Great Commission.

Well, how is all this to be done? – especially in “Difficult Days?”

- Read with me II Tim. 3:14- 4:5.
 - There is **no break** in the text.
- How are we to accomplish the mission of the church?
- Through obeying the command of 4:1-5
- The directions found there become the mandate of our church.
- Let us discuss Paul’s command and our mandate for 2008

- We have been given a COMMAND to Preach the Word!
- Consider with me this morning 4 dynamics of the command to **preach the Word.**

The Accountability Factor

- Vs. 1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

- This is a most solemn thought
- Everything we do, say and think is done, said, or thought in God's presence - Ps. 139
- The BIG day is coming. We are accountable - so make God's command your mandate now.

The Responsibility Factor

- Vs. 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

- The **explanation** of the responsibility.
- The **extent** of the responsibility.
- The **exercise** of the responsibility.
- The **exhausting** of the responsibility.

The Inevitability Factor

- Vs. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
- Vs. 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

There is coming a time, and even now is, when :

- People will not patiently listen to pure doctrine.
- Because of their desires for excitement and pleasure, they will be drawn to an abundance of pleasing teachers.
- Because people turn from the truth, they will believe that which is untrue.
- Last week we mentioned that the “silly women” would not change their behavior so they would not and could not stay under the truth of God’s Word. They couldn’t stand the heat so they got out of the kitchen!
- What are your desires? What makes you thrill? Can the old truth still satisfy? Are your attitudes and the teachers you choose turning you or settling you – establishing you in the truth (the Word) and in the pillar of truth (the local church)?

The Profitability Factor

- Vs. 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.
 - Get serious!
 - Get tough!
 - Get generous!
 - Get professional!

So, Grace – Preach the Word!

- We are *Accountable*
- So be *Responsible*
- In the midst of the *Inevitable*
- Make your life *Profitable*