



Small Group Curriculum

SERMON **A Non-Negotiable Authority: Mandatory (2 Timothy 4:1-5)**

DATE **October 10/11 2015**

I 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, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.⁵ As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 2 Timothy 4:1-5

As you prepare for this week's study, read all of 2 Timothy 4 to place the context of the message of verses 1-5. Carefully re-read the passage above, making note of key phrases and terms, repeated words, and lists.

1. To place emphasis on his wording in verses 1-5, Paul uses several lists. Where do you see those lists, and what are they emphasizing?
2. How do Paul's words in **2 Timothy 4:1** make Timothy aware of the seriousness of his charge to his young disciple? What is that charge? Do his words in verse 1 encourage you in any way?
3. At the writing of 2 Timothy, apostasy (a turning away completely from the faith), false teaching, and persecution were strongly attacking the church. Do you see a difference between then and now? In light of opposition, what is so significant about the command to preach the word today?
4. Can you recall a time when you faced persecution for your faith? Knowing what you now know, what things would you do to make yourself ready for persecution? What things would you do to stand firm in it?
5. Answer this question given by a young believer: "I'm not a pastor, why do I need to be ready to preach the word?"
6. What kinds of practical things can we do to make ourselves more ready to preach the word as Paul says in verse 2, "in season and out of season"? Read also **Luke 12:8-12** and describe in your own words the promise contained in that important passage.
7. In verse 3, Paul uses the image of "itching ears" to speak of those enticed by false teaching. What kinds of teaching these days would "itch" the ears of the world? Have you ever fallen prey to one of them?
8. Why is it wrong to see Paul's command in verse 5 to "fulfill your ministry," as speaking to something that Timothy (and we) are to do in our own strength? Do you see clues elsewhere in 2 Timothy that speak otherwise?