

LEARN

What main points from Sunday's sermon stood out to you as most helpful and/or challenging?

(Leaders: This is a good time to encourage note taking during sermons to increase memory and impact)

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5. What does it mean to "preach the Word"?

(Preach God's message and God's truth to everyone. Preach the "Word" who is Jesus – John 1:1-14, Colossians 1:28. Proclaim/Herald the good news of Jesus' victory over Satan, sin, death and hell. Includes reproof, rebuking, and exhorting. Preacher should be under God's Word to lead us to believe and obey it.)

From the text, what does Paul want to make sure Timothy does *not preach*?

(Unbiblical doctrine, whatever people prefer to hear, a message suited to the listener's sinful passions, myths)

PRACTICE

How should someone listen to a sermon? What criteria should be considered for a sermon to be considered good or bad according to these verses?

(Listen with the intent to submit, believe, obey God. Criteria include whether any reproof, rebuking, or exhortation happened, was teaching consistent with the Bible, does preacher take the task as a serious endeavor before God)

How would you describe modern day "itching ears" and "accumulating teachers to suit their own passions"?

(Easily offended by teaching from Scripture on matters like sin, hell, sexual morality issues, the need to repent and trust Jesus, Jesus' substitutionary death on the cross, avoiding the "hard words" of Jesus and Apostles, floating around various churches and never satisfied by any churches that insist on submitting to the Word, relying on podcasts alone instead of joining a local church)

How can we as a small group help one another avoid being the kind of people from verses 3 and 4?

(Loving confrontation when the Word is not believed or obeyed. Instructing, encouraging, exhorting one another with the Word. Diligently read and study together, and pray for one another)

CHANGE

Do you have a temptation or proclivity to hear only what you want to hear in a sermon? What will it take for that to change in your heart?

Take time in accountability to pray for Harvest, specifically about 3 areas: that the preaching would be Christ exalting and true to the Word; that Christians listening would be conformed to the image of Christ through the preaching; and that non-Christians would come to faith in Christ in our midst.