

Sermon Notes for May 14, 2017

“The Calling To Be A Biblical Pastor”

II Timothy 4:1-5

Introduction

A. The Passing Of The Baton

1. It is my honor and privilege to be able to preach the Installation Service of Seth Hammond to be the new Senior Pastor of Christ Covenant Church
 - a. as you know, God called me and my family here almost 22 years ago to plant this church
 - b. so, over the past 22 years, this church has been my continual ministry
 1. I have a great love for this church
 2. **and**, I have a great desire to protect this church
 - a. As the church planter of Christ Covenant, I have had a great concern about who would follow me as the next Senior Pastor
 - b. Would this next Pastor build on what has been done or would he level everything and start over?
 - c. It is my joy to know that **you, Seth Hammond**, will succeed me as the next Senior Pastor of Christ Covenant.
 1. you are an exemplary believer in Jesus
 2. you love His Word and you love His people
 3. you are:
 - a. full of integrity
 - b. a Godly man
 - c. open to counsel
 - d. a visionary
 - e. a hard worker
 4. you are a man that I have poured into for some 4 years
 - a. I disciplined you
 - b. I have mentored you
 - c. I have told you about all that I have to say to you
 - d. now, it is time for you to lead this church.

B. The Perspective Of The Future

1. I am so excited that **you** are my successor
2. I don't think that I could have found a better man to become the next Senior Pastor of Christ Covenant
3. **However**, despite all of my love and respect for you, I want to leave you with the **same exhortation** that the Apostle Paul gave to his disciple; a young Pastor named Timothy.

I. The SERIOUSNESS Of Preaching.

A. The Certainty Of JUDGMENT.

Vs. 1 – “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom, I give you this charge.”

1. With a view of the presence of Jesus.

Vs. 1a – “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,”

- a. **first**, Paul wants to make a point to his disciple, Timothy, **VERY, VERY STRONGLY.**
- b. he calls Timothy to listen **BECAUSE**, as a Pastor of a church, Timothy is in the very presence of Jesus!
- c. it is not as if Timothy is “alone” in ministry – Jesus is personally protecting and overseeing His church.
- d. so, Timothy cannot and must not think that he can simply take care of the ministry “just like he wants to.”
- e. for, Jesus is “looking over his shoulder” at everything that he is doing as a Pastor and shepherd of a church.
- f. after all, **THIS IS JESUS’ CHURCH!**

1. my problem with Pastors who refer to “my church”

2. as the Pastor of this church, I encourage you to get up every day and think first; I am serving the Head and King of the church, **AND NOT MYSELF!**

- a. THIS ministry is not about you!

- b. You are not to spend your time evaluating your success and taking credit for what God is doing here.

- c. I have spent far too much time evaluating my own success or lack thereof as a Pastor – **PLEASE REALIZE THAT THIS MINISTRY IS NOT ABOUT YOU!**

2. With a view of the judgment of Jesus.

Vs. 1a – “who will judge the living and the dead,”

- a. **second**, Paul wants Timothy to see that his ministry, as well as the ministry of the church that Timothy is pastoring, **WILL BE JUDGED!**
- b. we **MUST** recognize that everything that we do “as people;” Christians and non-Christians, **WILL BE JUDGED!**

1. **II Corinthians 5:9-10** – “So we make it our goal to please Him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. **For We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”

2. **John MacArthur:**

. “When we stand before our omniscient Lord, He already will know, far better than we ourselves can know, exactly how faithful and godly our life has been. **Not a year or a month, not an hour, minute, or a second escapes His notice or His judgment.**

3. so, if God is going to judge us as people, He will certainly judge us as Pastors

- a. **James 3:1** – “Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, **because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.**”
- b. and, how will God judge the preacher?
 1. did the preacher serve Jesus and His people or serve himself?
 2. did he lead a ministry according to his plans and ideas or by the Word of God?
 3. Seth, you and I have an administrative gift
 - a. and, there is nothing wrong with that
 - b. however, “don’t administrate God out of the ministry.”
 - c. my experience as a youth pastor

3. With a view of the **return of Jesus.**

Vs. 1b – “**and in view of His appearing and His kingdom,**”

- a. **third**, Paul wants Timothy to realize that Jesus could return **AT ANY MINUTE!**
- b. if Jesus were to physically return today, **WHAT WOULD HE SEE YOU DOING TO AND IN HIS CHURCH?**
- c. my experience in my first day on the farm

B. The Certainty of Preaching

1. The preacher is **charged.**

Vs. 1b – “I give you this **charge**”

- a. Paul then uses very, very serious language to address Timothy; Paul actually gives Timothy a charge
- b. it must be a very serious “charge” because it is Paul’s first charge to Timothy
- c. and, because this is a charge in Scripture, it is not only a charge from the Apostle Paul, **it is essentially a charge from God Himself!**
- d. so, this is a most important charge that Paul is making to Timothy, so Timothy must pay ver clos attention.

2. The preacher is **called.**

Vs. 2a – “**Preach the Word**”

- a. In this bold charge, Paul calls Timothy to “**preach the Word.**”
 1. of all of the charges that Paul “could” have charged Timothy to do – Paul **FIRST** charges Timothy to preach God’s Word
 2. of all of the duties that a Pastor must fulfill, preaching God’s Word is at the forefront
- b. **John MacArthur** – “**The solemnity of Paul’s charge is drawn from the fact that it is tied directly to the awesome majesty of the One who commissions men to divine service. Those who are called to proclaim and interpret the Word of God have the most profound responsibility that the Lord places on any man.**”

- c. **M. L. Jones** - “A man who imagines that because he has a head full of knowledge that he is sufficient for these things had better start learning again. **‘Who is sufficient for these things?’ What are you doing?** You are not simply imparting information. **You are dealing with souls. You are dealing with pilgrims on the way to eternity. You are dealing with matters not only of life and death in this world, but with eternal destiny.’**”
- d. Paul calls Timothy to preach the Word of God, **BECAUSE IT IS THE WORD OF GOD!**
 - 1. this Word is the Word of God, not the word of men
 - 2. this is God’s Word, His infallible and inerrant Word
II Timothy 3:16-17 – “**All Scripture is God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
 - a. this book is God-breathed
 - b. this book is not like any other book
 - c. just as God breathed into man and made him a living thing, being God breathed into His Word to make it a living book!
- e. why is Paul so adamant about Timothy preaching God’s Word?
 - 1. in this world, the believer needs to be constantly reminded of “God’s truth” and not “man’s truth.”
 - 2. through preaching the Word of God, the Body of Christ is instructed about how to live as a Christian.
 - 3. the believer is fed
 - a. there is no excuse to have hungry Christians in a church
 - b. a hungry church will soon be a divided church
 - c. the “mist in the terrarium”
 - 4. and in my opinion, there has never been a time in the history of our nation that we need to hear God’s truth more than today.

II. The SCOPE of Preaching.

A. The APPROACH In Preaching.

Vs. 2b – “**Be prepared** in season and out of season.”

1. The **totality** of preaching.

a. regarding Timothy’s call to preach, Paul says to **be ready to preach**

- 1. to stand by
- 2. like a soldier who is ready to go into battle at a moment’s notice
- 3. to be ready in an instant
- 4. how many time have I heard Seth say; “I am ready.”

b. Paul says to **be prepared**

- 1. **PREACHING IS HARD WORK! MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT.**
- 2. it takes time to prepare, to be ready to preach

3. it means that you are **ALWAYS IN THE BOOK! A MAN OF THE BOOK! SATURATED WITH THE BOOK!**

a. it will not be enough for the preacher to:

1. read a few verses and pray
2. go over a devotional guide

b. you must:

1. dig deep
2. put the hours in

4. **PREACHING is A DEMANDING WORK!**

a. **Ecclesiastes 12:12** – “of making many books there is no end, and **much study wearies the body.**”

b. my work in preparing to preach:

1. Monday and Tuesday
2. exhausting work. WORK!
3. my papers

c. **John A Sproule:** “A man cannot hope to preach the Word of God accurately until he has first engaged in a careful, exhaustive exegesis of his text. **Herein lies the problem, for competent exegesis requires time, brain power, “blood, sweat, and tears,” all saturated with enormous doses of prayer.**”

d. the lack of work of other preachers

1. T.K. – C’dale
2. H.M. – I never saw him study

e. (slide) **Dr. A. T. Robertson’s** desk at his office the day of his death.

2. the **timeliness** of preaching

Vs. 2b – “Be prepared **in season and out of season.**”

a. be ready to preach “**when you feel like it**” – **in season**

1. it is easy to preach when all is well
 - a. life is good
 - b. you are prepared
 - c. you have nothing else to worry about
 - d. God is working in your life
2. it is then, a delight to preach

b. be ready to preach “**when you don’t feel like it**” – **out of season**

1. **however**, you are sadly mistaken if you believe that every preacher feels like preaching every single week
2. my situation in Mississippi
 - a. Sunday a.m.
 - b. Sunday p.m.
 - c. Wednesday p.m.
 - d. I got tired of hearing myself talk.

3. so many things have to “line up” to make preaching work.
 - a. mental preparation and study
 - b. devotional time with the Lord
 - c. emotional issues in your life
 - d. family time
 - e. rest
4. it is tough to preach when:
 - a. you aren’t really prepared by your study time
 - b. your devotional life has been a struggle
 - c. you don’t feel physically well
 - d. you had a fight with your wife right before you come to church
 - e. and . . . Tennessee lost to Florida, . . . again.
5. I have been trying to figure out church attendance for years
 - a. it “appears” that it will be a good day, but it isn’t
 - b. it “appears” that it will be a bad day, and it is not
 - c. I am hardly ever right.
 - d. I guess that I am trying to get ready for what could happen that day in church—another pressure for the preacher
 1. the **70%** rule of chairs to people (our early years in the school)
 2. my friend who arranged the chairs during holidays

B. The ASPECTS Of Preaching.

Vs. 2c – “correct rebuke, and encourage”

1. correct – deal with the **mind of the believer**

- a. a preacher must do the hard work to find out what the Scriptures mean
 1. Hebrew and Greek study
 2. commentary study
- b. but, then the preacher must put that information together in a way:
 1. that can be understood
 2. and, that can be applied
 3. the preacher **CANNOT** simply fill the believers’ mind with Biblical facts without the believer knowing what to do with the text that you preached on.
 4. so, the great task of the Preacher is to teach the text Biblically and practically so that he can teach “correctly.”
 5. **W. Wiersbe – “True preaching is the explanation and application of Bible doctrine. Anything else is just religious speechmaking.”**
- c. much of Scripture speaks of “correcting” our lives
 1. the tendency for all of us as sinners is to veer off to the “left”
 2. the preacher’s task, therefore, is to “align the spiritual tires” of the believer every Sunday to keep them on the spiritual road.

3. so, every Sunday, the Biblical preacher must preach an “alignment sermon”
2. **rebuke** – deal with the **sin of the believer**
 - a. preachers are **also** called to deal with people’s sins
 1. to call people to an accounting
 2. to help people realize what sin is and how they must deal with their sin
 - b. dealing with sin in today’s culture is very, very difficult
 1. now, the first thing that the preacher **must** believe is that he, including himself, is preaching to sinners!
 - a. **FOR, NO ONE IS IMMUNE FROM SIN!**
 - b. if the preacher thinks that believers can become sinless, there will be no need to rebuke them!
 2. look at the news; **PEOPLE DON’T WANT TO BE TOLD NO!**
 - a. it is my opinion that the rebelliousness that we are seeing in the world today is a result of being told that they **CANNOT** do something
 - b. people, even Christians, do not want to be told what **NOT** to do.
 - c. I heard about a town many years ago that revolved around the lumber business. **The town decided that they wanted to hire a new Pastor for the town church.** One day, the new pastor saw some of his church members **dragging logs which had floated down the river from another village upstream.** Each log was marked with the owner’s stamp on the end of the log, much like a cattle brand. But to his dismay, **this Pastor saw his church members sawing off the ends of the logs where the owner’s stamp appeared.** That Sunday the Pastor preached a sermon on the commandment, **“Thou shalt not steal.”** After the sermon people said, “Great sermon, Pastor” and “mighty fine preaching.” But the next week they were back to stealing logs. So the next Sunday the Pastor preached the same sermon, but he ended the sermon by saying, **“And thou shalt not cut off the end of thy neighbor’s logs.”** When he finished that sermon they ran him out of town.
 - d. **THIS IS YOUR TASK AS A PREACHER!**
 1. if the Scripture calls something a sin
 2. then, **you** must call it a sin
 2. however, please realize why you, as a preacher, deal with believers’ sins
 - a. our goal as preachers is not to humiliate people—**BECAUSE WE ARE SINNERS TOO!**

- b. **THE REASON** that we encourage people to deal with their sin is to restore them to a blessed relationship with God!
- 3. **encourage** – deal with the **soul** of the believer.
 - Vs. 2d – “encourage with great patience and careful instructions”**
 - a. **HOWEVER**, despite Paul’s instructions to Timothy to correct and rebuke believers, he then tells Timothy **“how”** he is to correct and rebuke believers
 - b. there is no need for a preacher to be:
 - 1. a “pulpit smasher” or pounding the pulpit
 - 2. yelling and screaming
 - 3. with hellfire and brimstone
 - c. according to the Apostle Paul, look at “how” preachers **are** to preach:
 - 1. **“with great patience”**
 - a. greek - **makro thumia**
 - 1. **great patience**
 - 2. **long-suffering**
 - b. to be tremendously patient with those that you teach and preach to **NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT THEY MAY BE!**
 - 1. as the congregation struggles with their sins
 - 2. as the congregation struggles with the preacher
 - a. Charlie F. “South Carolinians”
 - b. H.P. crossed arms
 - c. **this is a patience that trusts the sovereign work of God in a person’s life who is sitting under the continual teaching of the Word of God.**
 - 2. **“and careful instruction”**
 - a. spending the hours that it takes in the study
 - b. hours and hours and hours
 - c. according to one of my seminary professors, he said that; “A preacher will need to study one hour for every minute that you will spend in the pulpit.” (for me, that would be 32 hours!)
 - d. careful instruction means to:
 - 1. pour over the Hebrew and Greek – to find the meaning of words and the tense of verbs
 - 2. study the commentaries and books until you feel confident that you know what the text is saying before you get up to preach.

III. The SOUNDNESS of Preaching.

A. The Way Of The WORLD.

1. The fickleness of people.

Vs. 3-4 – “For the time will come when **men will not put up with sound doctrine**. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a **great number of teachers** to say what their **itching ears want to hear**. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.”

- a. **However**, despite all of the work of the preacher in preparation to preach, Paul says that **“the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine.”**

1. well, let me tell you something my friend, **THE TIME HAS COME!**

- a. the focus of so many of our growing churches in America is:

1. never to offend
2. but to entertain

- b. the focus of so many churches is to speak to the audience of their “felt needs”

1. instead of the preacher focusing on the Word of God first, he first starts with the problems of man!
2. to this preacher, he asks the wrong question; “What does the audience **“want”** to hear?”
3. trust me, the audience will go whenever they can to hear what they want to hear
 - a. “tickle their ears”
 - b. not cause pain to their ears
4. the temptation for the preacher is to let the audience “drive” the pulpit instead of sound doctrine “driving” the pulpit.

2. **I hate to say this, but the next generation of preachers will face a much tougher audience than I have faced**

- a. consumerism has taken over our country, **EVEN IN THE CHURCH!**
- b. people now visit a church and think; what can this church do for **me**, instead of, what can **I do** for this church.

- b. **WHAT PEOPLE NEED TO HEAR IS THE WORD OF GOD, NO MATTER WHAT THE CULTURE SAYS!**

2. The failure of preachers.

Vs. 3-4 – “They will gather a **great number of teachers** to say what their **itching ears want to hear.**”

- a. many preachers are more than happy to accommodate their audience
 1. they want their churches to grow
 2. they don’t want to offend anyone or because preachers know that people will find another church that will not offend them
 3. so, they will preach on anything to get people to continue to

come back to their church

4. **Bill Hybels - “Unchurched people today are the ultimate consumers.** We may not like it, but for every sermon we preach, they’re asking, **“Am I interested in that subject or not?”** If they aren’t, it doesn’t matter how effective our delivery is. Their minds will check out.”

b. types of sermons

1. topical
2. textual
3. expository

c. **as one has said: “When a preacher preaches the Word he is authoritative. When he departs from the Word, he has abandoned his authority.”**

B. The Way Of The WORD.

1. Keep your **head**.

Vs. 5a – “BUT YOU, keep your head in all situations.”

a. as the Apostle Paul is exhorting his young disciple, Timothy, what to avoid as a Biblical preacher, Paul uses an emphatic word to refer specifically to Timothy – **“BUT YOU.”**

1. Paul is saying of Timothy, **I DON’T EXPECT THIS FROM YOU!**

2. Paul says to Timothy: “Despite the fact that other preachers are telling the people what they want to hear – **I EXPECT YOU TO PREACH THE WORD OF GOD UNAPOLOGETICALLY!!**”

a. I don’t expect you to be a preacher who stays away from hard, Biblical truth

b. I don’t expect you to preach to the whim and wishes of your audience.

c. Instead, I expect you to teach the pure Word of God!

3. my story as I moved to Knoxville; I faced this very dilemma

a. what kind of church would this new church be?

1. would I preach “feel good sermons” to draw a crowd?

2. or would I teach the deep Word of God and feed people’s souls?

3. that was the popular model of the day.

b. Paul warned Timothy to “keep your head.”

1. **THINK BIBLICALLY, NOT CULTURALLY**

2. **REALIZE WHO THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH IS AND THAT YOU ARE REPRESENTING HIM!**

3. don’t fall into the temptation to tell people what they want to hear

4. don’t follow other preachers who may have a bigger crowd because they won’t preach the unadulterated Word of God.

5. be faithful to preach the Word of God and trust Him for the results!

2. Endure your **hardship**.

Vs. 5a – “endure **hardship**”

- a. if you don’t know it yet, preaching is **not** a popular occupation
 1. if a preacher is doing his job – he **will** offend people
 2. John the Baptist was beheaded, Jesus was crucified and Paul was killed in prison
 3. my time on the golf course, “What do you do?”
- b. Here is a page from **John Wesley’s diary**: “Sunday morning, **May 5**, preached in St. Ann’s. Was **asked not to come back anymore**. Sunday p.m., **May 5**, preached at St. John’s. Deacons said, “**Get out and stay out.**” Sunday a.m., **May 12**, preached at St. Jude’s. **Can’t go back there either**. Sunday p.m., **May 12**, preached at St. George’s; **kicked out again**. Sunday a.m., **May 19**, preached at St. somebody else’s. The deacons called special meeting and **said I couldn’t return**. Sunday p.m., **May 19**, preached on the street, **kicked off the street**. Sunday a.m., **May 26**, preached in a meadow and was **chased out of meadow as a bull was turned loose during the services**. Sunday a.m., **June 2**, preached out at the edge of town and was **kicked off of the highway**. Sunday p.m., **June 2**, afternoon service, preached in a pasture. **10,000 people came to hear me.**”

3. Share your **faith**.

Vs. 5b – “do the **work of an evangelist**.”

- a. Now hear Paul’s closing comments to Timothy
- b. Yes, God not only calls the Pastor to preach, teach and disciple his flock . . .
- c. **God calls the preacher to share his faith with the lost**
 1. this is something that I have not done very well
 - a. I have spent most of my time with believers, for that is where my spiritual gifts are
 - b. **however**, Paul calls the preacher of the Word of God to “do the **work** of an evangelist
 1. and, just like preaching, evangelism is hard work
 - a. it is resented
 - b. it is laughed at
 - c. it is ridiculed
 2. you are to do the work of an evangelist, **IN ADDITION TO EVERYTHING ELSE THAT YOU ARE DOING!**
 2. may you do a better job of evangelism that I have

4. Do your **job**.

Vs. 5c – “**discharge all of the duties of your ministry**.”

- a. ultimately, Paul is telling Timothy **TO GO TO WORK!**
- b. for, being a preacher is hard work
 1. preparing sermons that will be preached every Sunday

2. dealing with God's people who have constant needs
3. taking the gospel to the world who desperately needs Jesus
- c. however, being a Pastor is the highest calling that a person can do
 1. so, don't do it half-heartedly
 2. because your employer is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!
 3. When **Lyndon Johnson** was elected President he asked **Billy Graham**, with whom he had been friends for years, **what particular position he would like to have in his administration. Without a moment's thought Billy said to him, "Sir, I believe that Jesus Christ has called me to preach His gospel. To me that is the highest calling any man could have on earth."**

Conclusion:

1. **Let me say this to our wonderful fellowship at Christ Covenant**
 - a. I have poured my life, my time and my prayers into this ministry
 - b. and now, it is time for a new leader
2. **So, let me ask each of you:**
 - a. to pray everyday for your new Senior Pastor
 - b. to BE PATIENT WITH HIM
 1. yes, he is 35 year old Pastor
 2. but, he is an exceptional 35 year old Pastor
 - c. if you have advice for him, be gracious and private as you share your thoughts, trust me, he will graciously listen to you.
 - d. **and**, look forward to what God is going to do in and through him.
 - e. **Charles McGowan's comment**