

Introduction

1. Paul's charge to Timothy and to us.
2. All the more moving since it is Paul's last letter.
3. "Preach the word" is our great task.

1. THE MISSION OF CHRIST'S CHURCH: "preach"

- 1) Whatever else the church may do, this is first:
 - (i) charitable works
 - (ii) committees...
 - (iii) "preach"
- 2) There are good reasons for preaching:
 - (i) the Bible is an inspired message: 2 Tim. 3:16
 - (ii) it has all that men need – four aspects
 - (iii) it reveals a body of truth
 - (iv) to preach is to declare this truth to men
 - (v) preaching has various forms: v.2
 - (vi) but all our preaching is in "the word"

APPLICATION: we dare not preach what is not in scripture
- 3) Preaching comprises:
 - (i) the bad news
 - (ii) the good news

APPLICATION: This is why we are the church we are

2. THERE WILL BE TEMPTATIONS TO SLACKEN THIS DUTY

- 1) When the church is in its right state this will be obvious – but it requires faith.
- 2) Experience teaches that churches decline:
 - (i) many churches linger after decline
 - (ii) they do other things – but not preach

- 3) How do we account for this slackening?
 - (i) loss of faith in God's word
 - (ii) failure to remember the great Day of Judgement: v.1
 - (iii) preaching goes out of fashion at times:
See: v.2 ("end of season"); v.3-4
 - (iv) it is this gospel preaching which the world most needs – yet most hates

- 4) Satan great wish is to silence the preaching of God's word – other things all less harmful to his kingdom.

APPLICATION: Encourage preaching always!

3. HOWEVER DIFFICULT THIS TASK IS IT IS A GLORIOUS WORK

- 1) Consider:
 - (i) taking light into the darkness
 - (ii) bringing salvation to the lost
 - (iii) turning poor sinners to God. What a work!

APPLICATION: O pray for more preachers! A thousand young men would not be too many!
- 2) Is it not a glorious work?
 - (i) God had only one Son – he was a preacher!
 - (ii) Christ's work explained at Nazareth
 - (iii) Christ's method: various types of preaching
 - (iv) Paul's words: "Christ sent me to preach".
 - (v) Paul: "I have not shunned to declare unto you..."
- 3) What a work is before us:
 - (i) saving souls!
 - (ii) building up the flock!
 - (iii) preparing men to face God!

CONCLUSION

1. Paul was now content to go.
2. Let us pray for God to raise others up!

PSALM

100: 1 – 5

19: 7 – 11

19: 12 – 14