

**"PREACH THE WORD"****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
 

**ILLUSTRATION**: a liberal minister whom I knew
  - (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<sup>1</sup>: 1 – 5****19: 7 – 11****19: 12 – 14**