



**The Marks of a Faithful Minister**  
**II Timothy 4:1-5**  
**October 19, 2014**

**Introduction:**

**Every minister must always remember that he did not choose the ministry; God used the ministry to call him.**

**I Corinthians 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel.**

**II Corinthians 4:5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.**

**I. The Seriousness of the Charge**

**II Timothy 4:1a I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ...**

**John Calvin:**

**"He makes special mention of the judgment of Christ because He will require of us, who are his representatives, a stricter account of our failures in His ministry."**

**A. We are to preach with confidence.**

**Verse 2a Preach the Word...**

**B. We are to preach constantly.**

**Verse 2b be ready in season and out of season...**

**It is not our job to make the message acceptable... it is our job to make the message available.**

**C. We are to preach with conviction.**

**Verse 2c reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.**

**Joel Osteen**

**"I don't think anything has been done in the name of Christ, and under the banner of Christianity, that has proven more destructive to human personality and hence counterproductive to the evangelistic enterprise, than the unchristian, uncouth strategy of attempting to make people aware of their lost and sinful condition. People are beat down enough, it is not my job to tell them they are sinners."**

**R. G. Lee**

**"I know some people who call the preacher who stands squarely upon the teaching of Christ and his apostles, narrow, harsh, and cruel. As to being narrow, I have no desire to be any broader than was Jesus. As to being cruel, is it cruel to tell a man the truth? Is a man to be called cruel who declares the whole gospel of God and points out to men their danger? Is it cruel to arouse sleeping people to the fact that the house is on fire? Is it cruel to jerk a blind man away from the rattlesnake in the coil? Is it cruel to declare to people the deadliness of disease and tell them which medicine to take? I had rather be called cruel for being kind, than to be called kind for being cruel."**

## **II. The Sadness of the Times**

### **A. Sound doctrine is expelled.**

**II Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine...**

### **B. Selfish desires are exalted.**

**Verse 3b but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.**

**John MacArthur:**

**"Bad doctrine is tolerable, a long sermon most certainly is not. The timing of the benediction is of far more concern to the average churchgoer than the content of the sermon. Sunday dinner and the feeding of our mouth take precedence over Sunday School and the nourishment of our souls. Long-windedness has become a greater sin than heresy."**

### **C. Self-Consumption is Expected.**

**II Timothy 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

**Takeaway:**

**When a man will not believe in God and the Bible, he will believe in anything.**

**II Thessalonians 2:10-11 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.**

**II Timothy 4:5c do the work of an evangelist...**

**John Wesley:**

**"You may be elegant, you may be winsome, you may be a good financier, yes, you may be in great demand, but if you do not win souls, you are a failure."**

**D. Be willing to be accountable.**

**II Timothy 4:5d make full proof of thy ministry.**