

(4:1) - **“I CHARGE THEE”** - Paul’s command to Timothy is given in light of the most serious event mankind will ever have to face – the Final Judgment. It will be declared and made manifest at this Judgment before the whole universe the reality of sin and righteousness. All who stand before God IN CHRIST, washed in His blood and clothed in His righteousness imputed, will be publicly shown as justified and entitled to eternal life and glory. All who stand before God without Christ will be publicly shown as condemned forever. **“BEFORE GOD, AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST”** would be better translated, “In the presence of God, even Christ Jesus.” God the Father has committed all judgment to the Son (*John 5:21-29*). Christ Himself is the Judge of all, and His righteousness is the standard of all judgment (*Acts 17:30-31*). Christ will **“JUDGE THE QUICK AND THE DEAD AT HIS APPEARING AND HIS KINGDOM”** - “The quick” are those who have been quickened, made alive spiritually, by the Holy Spirit, proving that they belong to Christ and that He died and arose for them. “The dead” refers to all who are spiritually dead in trespasses and in sin. Those who are spiritually alive have already been judged for their sins in the Person of Christ on the cross. Their sins have been taken away in the death of Christ. Christ’s **“APPEARING AND HIS KINGDOM”** describes His second coming to judge the world in righteousness. God will be vindicated before the whole universe in the salvation of His people based on the righteousness of Christ and in the damnation of all who are in their sins (*2 Cor. 5:10-11*).

(4:2) - **“PREACH THE WORD”** - A true minister of Christ, a true evangelist, is to preach the word of God alone. Paul described this in *2 Corinthians 5:20-21* when he described true preachers as *“ambassadors of Christ”* who set forth the glorious Person and finished work of Christ on the cross for our whole salvation. God’s preachers are bearers of good news of the great salvation God has freely provided and gives to all who turn to Christ for righteousness and eternal life (*Rom. 10:4*). **“BE INSTANT”** means to be like a soldier ready for battle (*1 Pet. 3:15*). **“IN SEASON, OUT OF SEASON”** - God’s preachers are to be ready at all times, whether the opportunity is favorable or unfavorable, whether convenient or inconvenient, to preach the Gospel of Christ and reason with people concerning issues of life and death as revealed in God’s Word. **“REPROVE”** - Convince and persuade by reasoning out of God’s Word in Christ. We know sinners can only be convinced in their hearts of the truth of God’s grace in Christ by a sovereign, powerful work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration and conversion (*John 16:8-11*). True ministers of Christ, however, are to recognize that we are instruments used of God in this great work (*1 Cor. 1:17-18*). **“REBUKE”** - Correct under the authority of God’s Word. **“Exhort”** - Encourage in teaching. This shows that all “rebuke” should be done in love and humility for the purpose of edification and not tearing down. **“WITH ALL LONGSUFFERING”** - With patience and forbearance. **“AND DOCTRINE”** - the Word of God, the doctrine (teaching) of Christ.

(4:3) - The last days will be marked by the fact that the religious majority **“WILL NOT ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE,”** the true teachings of the Scriptures which are intended to bring sinners to conviction of sin and depravity and to lead sinners to Christ and Him alone for all salvation by the sovereign grace and mercy of God. They will seek to multiply preachers and teachers **“AFTER THEIR OWN LUSTS.”** These are false teachers who will tell them what they want to hear according to their own unlawful, self-fulfilling desires, rather than what they need to hear for salvation to the praise and glory of God in Christ.

(4:4) - **“AND THEY SHALL TURN AWAY THEIR EARS FROM THE TRUTH”** - They have no desire or interest in the teachings that glorify God, exalt Christ, work in the salvation of sinners, and edify the church. They will not bow to any truth that would convict them of sin and expose their false refuges (*John 3:19-20*). **“AND SHALL BE TURNED UNTO FABLES”** - They will be turned by their own deceived hearts to false religious refuges. These are lies, or myths, that feed their self-righteousness and religious pride.

(4:5) - Paul tells Timothy to **“WATCH THOU IN ALL THINGS”** as one who stands firmly for the truth and firmly against the lies of false teachers. Stand firm as one who preaches a clear and consistent message of God’s grace and mercy in and by the Lord Jesus Christ and based upon His blood and righteousness alone. **“ENDURE AFFLICTIONS”** -- Bear up under suffering and continue preaching the Gospel of Christ in the face of persecutions and hardships that come from unbelievers. Such endurance is by God’s grace as He assures us of His blessings to all who trust in Christ and confess Him before men in spite of the world’s hatred of Him and His people (*Matt. 5:10-12*). **“DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST”** - One who spreads the good news of the Gospel of God’s grace in Christ. And in preaching the Gospel, even in spite of all the opposition that comes from the world, the flesh, and the devil, a true evangelist gives evidence of being in the service of the true and living God as a true servant of Christ. This is what it means to **“MAKE FULL PROOF OF THY MINISTRY.”**