

PROPHETIC EVENTS UNFOLDING
2 TIMOTHY 4:1-4

Introduction

There are a lot of people who are very interested in **Bible prophecy!**

Those who know the LORD **ought to be** very interested in **Bible prophecy!**

The reason for this is **often it deals with our future!** I don't know of anyone who truthfully wouldn't want to know as much as they could about the future!

Oh, we know that there are also **a lot of people who scoff at any mention of Bible prophecy.** They scoff because **they don't want Bible prophecy to be true** because they don't want to change the way they are living!

2 Peter 3:3-4 3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

Nevertheless, many people, including some scoffers, will come to hear teaching and preaching on **Bible prophecy.** The scoffers that come may come for the wrong reason, but praise God the Holy Spirit of God can and does convict some of them of sin, and righteousness, and judgment even if they come for the wrong reason!

Now, if I advertised that on a particular date I would be exposing who the Anti-Christ is, it is very possible that we would draw a very large crowd for that! No doubt, people would come from near and far to hear that sermon! That ain't going to happen, because the Anti-Christ won't be revealed until we are out of here! So any speculation on my part would just be speculation!

However, if during that sermon I preached against sin I believe I would lose my crowd as fast as I gained the crowd! Some would probably even get up and walk out!

Tonight here, I am going to be speaking on some prophetic events. That is I am going to be speaking on events that were to come to pass after they were written about. (That is what a prophetic event is!)

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The **prophecy** that we see unfolding before our very eyes is not something that will draw large crowds, but if we take it to heart, it will draw us closer to our Saviour and I would rather draw you closer to the Saviour than to draw crowds. **(READ TEXT)**

I. WE SEE A CHARGE TO EVERY PREACHER! (Vs 1-2)

Paul wrote this epistle or letter to the young preacher Timothy. Understand that the Apostle Paul was writing here under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit! (That means that God used the Apostle to communicate His truth to Timothy and to us by the pen of Paul!)

The Apostle Paul wrote Timothy about what kind of preacher he should be and why he should be that kind of preacher! In reality it is a charge to **EVERY PREACHER** in this age that we live!

A. Paul Told Timothy To "Preach The Word!"

1. A PREACHER is to PREACH or PROCLAIM the Word of God!

a. That's what Paul and the other apostles did.
Acts 17:2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, 3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

b. That's what every faithful preacher since that time has strived to do!

2. Now Understand That There Are Many So-Called Preachers Who Spend Most Of Their Time Giving Illustrations!

Illustrations are good but they are only to be the helper to the sermon not the meat of the sermon! **A sermon is supposed to PROCLAIM THE WORD!**

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3. **Many Preachers Are Great Storytellers!**
Stories can be good, but they are to be the helper to the sermon—not the meat of the sermon! (Jesus' Parables)
4. **It Is The Word Of God That Will Do The Work Of God In The Heart!**
Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Paul Told Timothy To "Preach The Word!"

- B. **Paul Told Timothy To "Be Instant!"**
"instant" = "to stand upon, that is, be present."
"instant" = "pressing; urgent; earnest."

To be instant one must be READY!

1. **Ready by being in the Word continually!**
1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:
2. **Ready to preach and teach the Word any time and all the time!**
3. **Ready whether it is "in season" or "out of season!"**
"in season" = "well timed, that is, opportune or convenient."

"out of season" = "inopportune or inconvenient."

Whether the listeners are **receptive** or **not receptive!**
Whether it is a **convenient** or **inconvenient time!**

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- C. **Paul Told Timothy To "Reprove!"**
"reprove" = "to refute or to disprove; prove to be wrong; to admonish; to charge with a fault to the face; to convince of a fault or make it manifest; to excite a sense of guilt."

Now understand that **no one** likes being condemned for his **actions or beliefs!** But if a **preacher will not reprove** he is like the parent that will only feed his children junk food. The kids are happy about it but it will only ruin them! Sadly, many preachers in our day are doing this very thing!

- D. **Paul Told Timothy To "Rebuke!"**
"rebuke" = "to censure or admonish; by implication forbid; to reprove or reprimand severely. To find fault with, censure, or condemn (an action etc.)."

"Reprove" and "rebuke" are very much alike as they both have someone in authority telling you **to stop doing wrong** and/or **to stop believing wrong!** But "rebuke" is stronger than "reprove"!

A preacher starts off **reproving** and then when that doesn't work he has to **rebuke**.

Notice **the preacher is giving twice as much negative as positive!** People don't like negative preaching!

Listen, much of the time **the truth will hurt**, but it is **helpful!**

The reason for the **rebuke** is to make one sound in the faith! Paul told Titus in *Titus 1:13 This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;*

Negative preaching leads to positive living!
Preaching against sin leads to clean lives!

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Negative preaching = condemning sin!
Positive living = changed lives!

Positive preaching leads to negative living!

Positive preaching = Seldom condemning sin; always exhorting **without rebuking** or **reproving!**
Negative living = leads sinful, unchanged lives!
(The sin is still there and not dealt with!)

- E. **Paul Told Timothy To “Exhort”!**
“Exhort” = *to call near*, that is, *invite, to advise or encourage, to urge (a person) to praiseworthy conduct!*

The preacher needs to urge people:
to live right, to talk right, to dress right, to give right,
to be right, to do right!

F. **Paul Told Timothy To Do All Of These Things With**

1. **All longsuffering!**
This means the preacher will have *to suffer long!*
This is like parents do with their children!

The preacher’s *reproving, rebuking, and exhorting* is to be done with *longsuffering!*

2 Timothy 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

2 Timothy 3:10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

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2. **And Doctrine!**
All reproving, rebuking, and exhorting is to be done **with doctrine!** God gave us His Word for **doctrine!**
2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

WE SEE A CHARGE TO EVERY PREACHER...

II. **WE SEE HOW END TIME PEOPLE WILL BE! (Vs 3)**
And here is the **PROPHECY THAT WE SEE UNFOLDING RIGHT BEFORE OUR VERY EYES!**

Paul warns Timothy here that **a time would come when people living in the end times would not be able to endure sound doctrine.** It is happening now!

Paul had previously warned Timothy in his first letter to him about some of the **characteristics of people living in the latter times** would be. **(Look at their description in 1 Timothy 4:1-3)**

Even earlier in this second letter we’ve seen how Paul had warned him about what the **character of people would be like in the last days and how people would be! He called those days *perilous times!* (2 Timothy 3:1-6) Listen to me, we’re there!**

- A. **They Will Not Endure Sound Doctrine!**
1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

1. **Sound doctrine has to be “endured.”**
“endure” = “*to hold oneself up against, that is, (figuratively) put up with.*”

“*To bear without opposition or sinking under the pressure.*” “*To undergo; to sustain; to continue in.*”

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2. **Sometimes it is painful to be under sound doctrine - it hurts our pride!** We all like to think we are better than we really are! (Preachers included!)
3. **Doctrine that go against the flesh must be endured!**
 - a. **The Doctrine Of Sin!**
Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.
 - b. **The Doctrine Of Judgment For Sin!**
(Including the Doctrine of Hell!)
4. **We're living in a time that folks can't and don't endure sound doctrine!**
"I ain't listening to that...I'm out of here!"

B. Now, What Is "Sound Doctrine?" Sound Doctrine Is Teaching That Stands The Test Of The Whole Word Of God!

1. **Cults teach false doctrine** that is based on proof texts that are nothing more than Scripture taken out of context!
2. **Modern day Churchanity** says "*we don't care about doctrine*" just make us feel good about ourselves! (So they go to a Church that feeds their emotions!)
3. **Many reject the preaching of sound doctrine!**
 - a. Jesus was rejected because He preached the truth.
John 8:45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

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- b. Many in the Galatian Church did not want the truth from the Apostle Paul!
Galatians 4:16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?
 4. Many will **follow their own lusts** and find someone that **satisfies how their flesh wants to be and live!**
 5. Too many don't want preaching that **condemns their fleshly desires and their sin!**
 6. Too many don't want preachers that preach **sound doctrine!**
 7. Too many can't and won't endure it or put up with it because they are **driven by their flesh!**
- C. They Will Find And Get The Kind Of Teachers They Want!**
1. **They will heap to themselves teachers!**
The idea is that they will go from teacher to teacher until their itching ears are tickled as they wish!
(Note: It says "**teachers**" NOT "**preachers**"!
i.e. No reproving, rebuking, or exhorting with all longsuffering and doctrine!)
 2. **You can sense the dissatisfaction in their souls!**
 3. **They will have itching ears! (Wanting them tickled!)**
 - a. **Some want to be amused and/or entertained!**
Many modern Churches are ready to oblige!
They are seeker oriented! They are based on *entertaining* instead of *reproving, rebuking and exhorting!*

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- b. Some want to be flattered!** (*Joel Olsteen*)
- c. Some want to hear new things!**
They don't want to hear the old, old story!
Philippians 3:1 . . . To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

They will be like the group of people in Athens that Paul encountered.

Acts 17:19 (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)

*WE SEE A CHARGE TO EVERY PREACHER...
WE SEE HOW END TIME PEOPLE WILL BE...*

III. WE SEE WHERE END TIME PATHS LEAD THEM! (Vs 4)

- A. Their Paths Take Them Away From The Truth!**
They do not like the **TRUTH** because it **condemns them and their lifestyle!**

There are so-called preachers who will **give people what they want to hear! But the end of that path is error, not truth!**

- B. Their Paths Take Them To Fables!**
If one wants the truth, God has men who speak it!
Jeremiah 6:16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

If you want a fable, God will give you over to those who speak it!

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Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

- C. Preachers that will tell folks what they want to hear are numerous!**
Every preacher preaches doctrine, but the question is this:
Do they preach **sound doctrine** or **false doctrine**—i.e. fables.

The World and much of modern day “*Churchanity*” wants the Light of truth put out and replaced by that which they want to hear!

The time is coming when I believe many of those in “*Churchanity*” will side with the world in an effort to eliminate those who hold to sound doctrine and especially those who teach and preach sound doctrine!

Conclusion:

I think there is little doubt that we are in the day and time that Paul saw coming...And it is increasingly getting more that way with each and every passing day!

Where are your paths taking you?

What is your attitude toward sound Bible Teaching and Preaching?

Are you one that delights in and wants the Old Paths?

Are you letting the Word of God effectually work in you?

Will you make a stand and remain on sound doctrine for your life?
Or will you be as many who have turned from the truth unto fables?