



## In Season and Out of Season (II Timothy 4:1-22)

### Marching Orders

“I **charge you** therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will **judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.** For the time will come when they will **not endure sound doctrine**, but **according to their own desires**, because they have **itching ears**, they will **heap up for themselves teachers**; and they will **turn** their ears **away from the truth**, and be **turned aside to fables**. But **you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**” II Timothy 4:1-5 NKJV

### II Timothy 4:1-5

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*season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.” II Timothy 4:1-2 NKJV*

☑ I charge you...

- ☑ We know from the start of Paul’s letters to Timothy that Paul considers Timothy a spiritual son. Paul is the one who left Timothy behind in Ephesus to teach good doctrine and correct any errors coming into the church. So, it is not surprising that Paul exercises the authority to “charge” Timothy with instructions.

☑ Judgment...

- ☑ *“The Lord Jesus Christ, who will **judge** the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom.”* Maybe this is not the time to explore the statement to its fullest. But, conceptually, you need to understand what Paul is saying here. Paul has an excellent grasp on what will happen at the return of the Lord. He knows that the final judgment, whether or not someone will spend eternity in the presence of the Lord, does not take place until the end of all things.
- ☑ The distinction here is between the return of the Lord at His second coming, and what takes place between His second coming and the very end, the end of the millennial kingdom. Those who have died outside of the

faith are not resurrected to final judgment until the end of the “kingdom”, the millennial kingdom.

☑ **Preach the word (in season and out of season)**

☑ *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and **always be ready to give a defense** to everyone who asks you a reason **for the hope that is in you**, with meekness and fear;”* 1 Peter 3:15 NKJV

☑ Paul’s emphasis here is on the distinction between those who demonstrate Christian beliefs and values from those whose life has become Christian beliefs and values. In other words, is your Christian life demonstrated circumstantially, when you are “on”. Or, is your entire life “Christian”, behind the scenes, in front of a crowd, in every way, at all times?

☑ Are you wearing your faith on your sleeve like military stripes, demonstrating Christian values at times and espousing a Christian world view at times? Or, is the person wearing the stripes filled with faith and everything emanating from that person, at all times, demonstrative of who they’ve become?

☑ **Preach what/how?**

☑ **Convince:** Your life should be convincing. It’s not about persuading someone with fancy arguments. It’s about

undeniable demonstrations, consistent living that becomes your greatest testimony.

- ☑ **Rebuke:** When necessary, indeed it is your role to correct those who are not living according to their faith. We are not talking here about correcting those outside the faith. They are clueless and are not accountable to you. But, those inside the faith, who claim to be a purchased possession of the Lord, are to be held accountable for their lifestyle and choices.
- ☑ **Exhort:** Encourage one another, be kind with your words, inspirational with your admonitions. It's amazing how motivating kind words of encouragement are for someone, both when they are struggling and when they are excelling. Kind words are free; encouragement cost you nothing, so be liberal in your sharing.
- ☑ **Patience:** Whether you are rebuking or encouraging someone, do everything with patience. Remember, the Lord has been patient with you. Even when you are in error, the Lord gently and patiently corrects you.
- ☑ **Teach:** No doubt, teaching the things of the faith is one of the superseding themes in both letters that Paul wrote to his spiritual son. Even if teaching is not your gift, or your calling in ministry, everyone spends some time in their

lives in a teaching role for others. Remember our Discipleship theme: you are not a true disciple unless you are making disciples who can make disciples. This cannot be done unless you are teaching. And many times teaching is more about what people witness in your life than what you say with your words. Truths are caught more often than they are taught.

☑ *“For the time will come when they will **not endure sound doctrine**, but according to **their own desires**, because they have **itching ears**, they will **heap up for themselves teachers**; and they will **turn their ears away from the truth**, and be **turned aside to fables.**” II Timothy 4:3-4 NKJV*

☑ **Will not endure sound doctrine...**

☑ No doubt we are living in an era in which this statement is truer than ever. Sound doctrine, inflexibility with the Words of Scripture, the words of Christ Himself, is almost unheard of these days in the mega church era. As we have learned throughout our study of I and II Timothy, even Christ Himself did not make up His own doctrine. He came only with the doctrine of His Father.

☑ **Own desires...**

- ☑ The greatest temptation, the most common cause of the twisting of doctrine, is that people become motivated by their own selfish desires. They create something to serve themselves and it matters not if sound doctrine must be put on the back burner in order to do so. Many teachings espoused by the most “famous” preachers in Christianity, unfortunately, are filled with false doctrines. Sermons and theology born out of selfish desires are used to to build their own kingdoms.
- ☑ **Itching ears...**
  - ☑ You can't preach to an empty audience. Someone must receive your teaching and, unfortunately, churches have become filled with those who desire false doctrines, easy teachings that make them feel good about themselves. Teachings that neglect exposing sin and the need for repentance have become all too common in the modern church. It's much easier to fill auditoriums when there are few if any requirements of the faith. Churches have become motivational programs and self improvement seminars absent the power of the Spirit, conviction and the need for repentance.
- ☑ **Complicit Teachers...**

- ☑ Famous teachers and pastors are all too happy to supply motivational talks that excite people and move them to support their growing endeavors. Do not mistake cheering audiences and charismatic emotions for an authentic move of the Holy Spirit. If you want to see tens of thousands of excited spectators, you need not go any further than a football game or a soccer match. People cheer and raise their hands in excitement at these massive events, and obviously it is not because of a move of the Spirit.
- ☑ **Entertaining stories in lieu of truth...**
  - ☑ Children's stories absent in important details and facts have replaced the truth of the Scriptures. Many Christians today have false preconceptions about what the Bible actually says, because they have been trained from Sunday school and cartoons and complicit teachers to believe things that simply aren't true. That is why Timothy was charged with teaching good doctrine. It's impossible to be a disciple if you are not capable of recognizing good doctrine, living under good doctrine, and sharing good doctrine.

☑ *“But you **be watchful** in all things, **endure afflictions**, do the work of an **evangelist**, **fulfill your ministry**.” II Timothy 4:5  
NKJV*

☑ **Pay attention...**

☑ As a Christian, you have entered a world of responsibility. You are not permitted to turn a blind eye to what is going on around you in the church. It is incumbent upon you to know the truth and expose lies. Be sober and watching.

☑ **Be willing to suffer...**

☑ Of course, persecution will come, and unfortunately much of it will take place at the hands of those who claim to be in the faith. Will you be bold enough to withstand the onslaught?

☑ **Evangelize anyway...**

☑ Here is where it gets a bit complicated. Of course, evangelism means that you are spreading the good news of salvation. Evangelism isn't the technique you use to make disciples, but instead converts. A disciple can only be trained after conversion.

☑ But here is the rub, if you are evangelizing an atheist, the message is clear and the path is simple. Atheism is a religion that is based on zero facts facts and 100% faith. That's quite different than Christianity which is a logical



faith, based on many provable facts. An agnostic is more difficult to evangelize because they have many beliefs that leave room for many “truths”. They will more often consider fundamentalism as intolerance.

- ☑ But, the hardest group of all to evangelize are those who “already” believe they are Christians. These are, unfortunately, what make up the majority of the Megachurch culture. They have believed a false doctrine, a false Christianity and have tragically been convinced they have encountered the real Jesus, when they have not! Attempt to evangelize them and they will stare at you curiously, wondering why you don’t recognize that they are already in the faith. Good luck!

- ☑ **Fulfill your role...**

- ☑ **Rewind:** *“to which I was appointed a **preacher**, an **apostle**, and a **teacher** of the Gentiles. For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.” II Timothy 1:11-12 NKJV*

- ☑ In the first chapter of this very letter, we have already seen that Paul is emphasizing, much like he does in the second chapter of Ephesians, that from before the

foundations of the world, before you were ever formed in your mother's womb, you were conceived in God's mind with a purpose. Your job in life is to live out that purpose.

- ☑ The way that is expressed in the earth is through what we call "Ministry". In other words, fill your specific purpose as a minister of God's calling on your life. This does not mean you must be "in ministry". But rather, recognize that all Christians have a ministry. And that ministry is to walk out their specific God-given calling.
- ☑ There is nothing more powerful in the earth than witnessing someone living life in complete alignment with God. There is no greater tool of evangelism and witnessing than for those looking on to see a person who is in complete harmony with God.

### **Purpose Punctuation**

"For I am already being **poured out as a drink offering**, and the time of **my departure is at hand**. I have **fought the good fight**, I have **finished the race**, I have **kept the faith**. Finally, there is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, **will give to me on that Day**, and **not to me only** but also to all who have **loved His appearing**." II Timothy 4:6-8 NKJV

## II Timothy 4:6-8

☑ “For I am already being **poured out as a drink offering**, and the **time of my departure** is at hand.” II Timothy 4:6 NKJV

### ☑ Poured out as a drink offering...

☑ Paul uses imagery that he is most familiar with from his past. Remember, he is a Pharisee of Pharisees, the most educated in his field, prior to his experience on the road to Damascus when he was encountered by Christ. Paul knows the imagery of the drink offering. It's not difficult to imagine that when sacrifices are being made, there is a residue remaining from whatever you are burning. Even when the burnt offering is burnt completely, ashes remain.

☑ Now imagine pouring liquid on the raging fire of the altar. What remains? As the liquid boils and steams off into the atmosphere, nothing remains. That is what Paul is saying, he has lived his life as a disciple, a minister, so completely that nothing of Paul remains. Will you live your life like that?

### ☑ Time of departure...

☑ Much like Peter in II Peter who was well aware that his final days were at hand, Paul knows that he is nearing the end of his journey. This, like Peter's letter, is Paul's last

will and testament, so to speak. We know that Paul is a prisoner in Rome at the end of the book of acts. This is likely from where he is authoring this letter. What happens after that is historical, as he ultimately gives his life for the faith. He is a drink offering, steam rising into the universe and disappearing into nothing. What a legacy!

☑ *“I have **fought the good fight**, I have **finished the race**, I have **kept the faith**.” II Timothy 4:7 NKJV*

☑ **Fought the good fight...**

☑ It was common for Paul to use language that conjured up the mental picture of either an athlete or a warrior fighting valiantly for the victory.

☑ **Finished the race...Kept the faith...**

☑ Everyone who runs a race runs to win. Paul is recognizing that his race is over and his faith has endured to the end!

☑ *“Do you not know that **those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it**. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, **but we for an***

*imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” I Corinthians 9:24-27 NKJV*

☑ *“Finally, there is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, **the righteous Judge**, will give to me **on that Day**, and **not to me only** but also to **all who have loved His appearing**.” II Timothy 4:8 NKJV*

☑ **Crown of righteousness...**

☑ Paul has always had his eye on the prize. What is that prize? He, of course, recognizes that that same prize is available to all who have walked in the faith.

☑ **The Prize:** *“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, **that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.** Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, **I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**” Philippians 3:12-14 NKJV*

- ☑ **Well done:** *“His Lord said to him, ‘**Well done, good and faithful servant;** you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.’”* Matthew 25:23 NKJV
- ☑ **On that Day...**
  - ☑ Again, the day is coming when Christ will judge everyone. The final judgment takes place at the end of the millennial kingdom and then we will have the marriage supper of the lamb. This is the order of resurrection: Christ—Christians—Non-Christians
  - ☑ *“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father,** when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.”* 1 Corinthians 15:20-24 NKJV
- ☑ **Loved His appearing...**
  - ☑ All those that know He is the Messiah, know that He appeared will share in the same inheritance.

## Ultimately Delivered from Every Evil Work

“Be diligent to come to me quickly; for **Demas has forsaken me**, having **loved this present world**, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. Only **Luke** is with me. Get **Mark** and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments. **Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom.** To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!” II Timothy 4:9-18 NKJV

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☑ **Drawn away by the world...**

- ☑ The warning here extends far beyond Paul’s personal life, as he testifies that some have turned away and forsaken service to him and the ministry to the Lord. What has tempted them to do so is their love for the world. Of course John warned us, do not love the world or the things in the world...(I John 2:15)
- ☑ Peter gave us a great warning about those who go back to the pollutions of the world...
- ☑ *“For if, **after they have escaped the pollutions of the world** through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, **the latter end is worse for them than the beginning**. For **it would have been better for them not to have known** the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them*



*according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.""* II Peter 2:20-22 NKJV

☑ *"Alexander the coppersmith **did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works.** You also must **beware** of him, for he has greatly resisted our words."* II Timothy 4:14-15 NKJV

☑ **Those who harm you...**

☑ Paul is very aware that it is not his job to defend himself or avenge himself. He hands over those who have harmed him to the Lord.

☑ **Vengeance is the Lord's**

☑ *"**Repay no one evil for evil.** Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, **live peaceably with all men.** Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "**Vengeance is Mine** [Deut. 32:35], I will repay," says the Lord."* Romans 12:17-19 NKJV

☑ **Beware (of the resistance)**

☑ Do not be concerned, but do be aware. The battle is the Lord's, but you are charged to be wise, sober and watching.

- ☑ *“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore **be wise as serpents and harmless as doves**. But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues.”*  
Matthew 10:16-17 NKJV

- ☑ *“At my first defense **no one stood with me**, but all forsook me. **May it not be charged against them.**”* II Timothy 4:16 NKJV

- ☑ **Go it alone if necessary...**

- ☑ Life in the faith is not promised to be easy. You must make the decision to go it alone if necessary.

- ☑ **Forgive them Father...**

- ☑ You must have the mind of Christ for those who have harmed you. Forgive them father, they don't know what they are doing.

## **God Will Finish what He Started**

“But **the Lord stood with me and strengthened me**, so that the message might be **preached fully through me**, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also **I was delivered** out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will **deliver me from every evil work** and **preserve me for His heavenly kingdom**. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!” II Timothy 4:17-18 NKJV

## II Timothy 4:17-18

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### ☑ The Lord is my strength...

☑ **I can do all things:** *“I can do all things through **Christ who strengthens me.**”* Philippians 4:13 NKJV

☑ **When I am weak...** *“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**”* II Corinthians 12:10 NKJV

### ☑ Don’t hold back...

☑ Paul’s admonition here is that you are to be “all-in”. Do not hold back, do not hesitate; do not reserve anything; have nothing left over at the end. Again, let me remind you of the imagery of the liquid offering on the altar that becomes steam evaporated into the universe.

### ☑ Delivered like Daniel...

☑ Paul makes an allusion to the deliverance of the Prophet Daniel in Daniel 6. Daniel was supernaturally delivered from the mouth of the lion. What got Daniel into

“trouble” was his refusal to obey the king over his God. This is the level of living to which Paul is referring. Even if it means you face being devoured by a lion. Yahweh will be your Deliverance.

- ☑ *“And the **Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom.** To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!” II Timothy 4:18 NKJV*
- ☑ **The Lord will deliver me... Preserved for the Kingdom...**
- ☑ The Lord is your strength and your shield (Ps. 28:7). He will be your deliverance: He will finish what He started. Your destination is the kingdom; nothing can stop that..
- ☑ **STRENGTH!** *“**The Lord is my strength and my shield;** My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him.” Psalms 28:7 NKJV*
- ☑ **COMPLETE!** *“being confident of this very thing, that **He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;**” Philippians 1:6 NKJV*
- ☑ **NOTHING!** *“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, **shall be able to***

*separate us from the love of God which is in Christ  
Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38-39 NKJV*

## **Final Greeting and Farewell**

“Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick. Do your utmost to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren. **The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.**” II Timothy 4:19-22 NKJV

## **II Timothy 4:19-22**

☑ *“The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.” II Timothy 4:22 NKJV*

☑ **The Lord be with you...**

☑ Your spirit has been invaded with the Holy Spirit; never forget

☑ **Grace be with you...**

☑ Paul’s final words of his last will and testament. Grace: the supernatural empowerment of God, the same power that raised Christ from the grave—may it be in you and used by you. Amen!

## **NEXT TEACHING**

The Gift of Temptation (James 1:1-18)