

Verses: 2 Timothy 4:1-2 AMP

¹I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:²preach the word [as an official messenger]; be ready when the time is right and even when it is not [keep your sense of urgency, whether the opportunity seems favorable or unfavorable, whether convenient or inconvenient, whether welcome or unwelcome]; correct [those who err in doctrine or behavior], warn [those who sin], exhort and encourage [those who are growing toward spiritual maturity], with inexhaustible patience and [faithful] teaching.

This is Paul's final charge to his spiritual son Timothy. The tone of this passage is serious and sobering. He is making sure Timothy understands the gravity of his responsibility toward God to be faithful to His word and calling. He has already encouraged him that he is to do it by the strength of the grace that is in Christ Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit who indwells us. Now he is putting weight behind his final exhortation to him.

The Greek word for "I charge" is used in connection with a solemn and emphatic testimony in a court of law. This is underscored by his reminder that we will all be judged by God one day. It is an urgent appeal to continue the work Jesus began, to faithfully preach the true gospel, whether its convenient or not, even when the environment is hostile to the truth and people will only want to hear a "bless me" message.

Paul has honestly prepared his protégé, sharing with him the glory and sufferings that come with this honour and responsibility. We too, have been given this charge, to share the good news about Jesus with others, whether it's popular or not.

We have all been given a serious honour and responsibility, the ministry of reconciliation. (See 2 Corinthians 5:18-20). God is wanting to make His appeal through us and reconcile people to Himself. May we take it seriously and fulfil our ministry before Him, the One who loves us and sent His Son to die for us, so we could be reconciled to Him and be received into His kingdom, to live with Him forever.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for your grace and your indwelling Holy Spirit who empowers me to do your will. Help me to be a godly witness before others and give me boldness to share the love of Jesus and the gospel message with those who are perishing. Thank you for choosing me to be your messenger of hope to a dying world. Bring those who are ready to receive your kingdom across my path today, in Jesus' name. Amen.