

# FULFIL YOUR MINISTRY



By Deon Lieberum  
Christian Centre Abbotsford

14 July 2024

## Key verses: 2 Timothy 4:1-5

### Introduction

I have many sons. Two of them are family... the rest are spiritual sons. When I was preparing, I thought, "What would I say to my sons, if I was about to die?"

*Nathan, you have so many good qualities. Don't chase money. Always put your heavenly Father first. Whenever you're making a difficult decision, put God first. Make sure you always check on your family, no matter how far away in the world you are.*

*John, you are a good man. You've given yourself to God's call. Remember as much as I love you, your heavenly Father loves you much more. Look after your mom and your sisters. Pray for them and make sure they feel safe and secure.*

### 2 Timothy 4:1-5 NKJV

*1 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: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 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; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

This is Paul's **final** and most **personal** letter.

### Paul's Instruction – a (cheese) sandwich

Preach the word

- Be ready in season and out of season
  - o 1 Tim 4:12 – 16
    - **Be an example** in word (what you say), conduct, love, spirit, faith and purity.
    - Give attention (**be dedicated**) to reading, exhortation (reinforcing) and doctrine (teaching).
    - Don't neglect your gifting
    - Meditate (think intelligibly) and give yourself to these things so people will recognize you.
    - Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.
- Convince (Persuade, Argue), Rebuke (Charge, Lecture), Exhort (Urge, Encourage, Comfort) with all longsuffering and teaching (instruction, doctrine).

**Warning:** 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.

There are people within the church who don't want to hear "sound teaching" because it makes them uncomfortable.

Paul says they will "heap up for themselves teachers" – How appropriate that we live in an age in which one can literally gather heaps of teachers.

- But you be watchful (sober minded) in all things
- Endure afflictions (hardship, persecution)

Do the work of an **evangelist\***, fulfil your ministry.

As a **Christ follower** our **most important ministry** (or service) is to share the **Gospel Message (do the work of an evangelist)** with a world who is without Christ! We call this evangelism.

## 1. What is the work of an **Evangelist**?

G2099: **Preacher of the Gospel** (Greek - euaggelistes) **Yoo-ang-ghel'-is-tace\***

This word **evangelist** is found 3 times in the New Testament.

It means preacher, herald, declarer, proclaimer or messenger

G2097: **Announce Good News** (Greek – euaggelizo) **yoo-ang-ghel'-id'-zo**

This means to preach or declare the Gospel or Evangelize, which is found 55 times in the New Testament.

The work of an EVANGELIST is to DECLARE or HERALD the Good News about Jesus\*

Someone who points people to the person and work of Jesus Christ.

### **Romans 10:14 – 15**

**14** How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? **15** And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,*

*Who bring glad tidings of good things!"*

## 2. What is the **Gospel**?

John Piper:

The Gospel is the news that Jesus Christ the righteous one died for our sins, rose again eternally triumphant over all His enemies so that there is now no condemnation for those who believe but only everlasting joy.

Greg Laurie:

The gospel is the message that we are all separated from God because of our sin. The result of this sin is an emptiness, an ever-present guilt, and a certain fear of death. Yet, because

God loved us, in spite of our rebellion, He sent His own Son to die in our place and to bridge the gap between Him and ourselves.

### **John 3:16–17**

**16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

### **Ephesians 2:4–9**

**4** But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6** and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **9** not of works, lest anyone should boast.

### **Romans 5:8**

**8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### **2 Corinthians 5:19**

**19** ...That God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them,...

### **1 Peter 3:18**

**18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God...

### **1 John 4:10**

**10** In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

## **The Gospel – Explain the Gospel**

### **3. Is this instruction for all of us?**

Some people will say, "I'm not an evangelist"

Question: **"Then what kind of Christian are you?"**

I remember when I was newly Born-Again, a baby Christian, I was so taken by the idea that people were going to hell without Jesus, that I used to walk up to strangers and tell them Jesus loves them and ask them if they would pray and surrender to Jesus and get saved.

**"We need more baby Christians who are properly Born Again, so that we don't become Bored Again!"**

### **2 Corinthians 5:17 – 21**

**17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. **18** Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, **19** that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us

*the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

## **Parable - The Life-Saving Station**

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur, there was once a little life-saving station. The building was primitive, and there was just one boat, but the members of the life-saving station were committed and kept a constant watch over the sea. When a ship went down, **they unselfishly went out day or night to save the lost.** Because so many lives were saved by that station, it became famous.

Consequently, **many people wanted to be associated with the station to give their time, talent, and money to support its important work.** New boats were bought, new crews were recruited, a formal training session was offered. As the membership in the life-saving station grew, some of the members became unhappy that the building was so primitive and that the equipment was so outdated. They wanted a better place to welcome the survivors pulled from the sea. So they replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in the enlarged and newly decorated building.

Now the life-saving station **became a popular gathering place for its members.** They met regularly and when they did, it was apparent how they loved one another. They greeted each other, hugged each other, and shared with one another the events that had been going on in their lives. But **fewer members were now interested in going to sea on life-saving missions;** so they hired lifeboat crews to do this for them.

About this time, a large ship was wrecked off of the coast, and the hired crews brought into the life-saving station boatloads of cold, wet, dirty, sick, and half-drowned people. Some of them had different coloured skin to those at the life saving station. Some couldn't speak the same language, and some could hardly speak it at all. Some were first-class cabin passengers of the ship, and some were the deck hands.

The beautiful meeting place became a place of chaos. The plush carpets got dirty. Some of the exquisite furniture got scratched. So the property committee immediately had a shower built outside the house where the victims of shipwreck could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting there was rift in the membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's life-saving activities, for they were unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal fellowship of the members. Other members insisted that life-saving was their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a life-saving station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the lives of all those various kinds of people who would be shipwrecked, they could begin their own life-saving station down the coast. And do you know what? That is what they did.

As the years passed, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. It evolved into a place to meet regularly for fellowship, for committee meetings, and for special training sessions about their mission, but **few went out to the drowning people.** The drowning people were no longer welcomed in that new life-saving station. So another life-saving station was founded further down the coast. History continued to repeat itself. And if you visit that seacoast today, **you will find a number of adequate meeting places with ample parking and plush carpeting. Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown.**

## Conclusion

### ***Why aren't we doing it?***

If our most important ministry is sharing the Gospel Message, and this instruction is for every Christian, then why aren't we doing it?

I think the reason we don't share the Gospel with others is that we don't believe they're going to hell.

I mean, if we believe that if someone dies without Christ, they're going into a state of eternal suffering... then surely, if the love of God lives in us, we would do everything we can to share the message of salvation?

If we believed this, nothing would stop us. Not our ***insecurities***, our ***schedules***, the fact that we might be an ***introvert***, etc. if we were convinced that people need Jesus to escape an eternity without Him, which would be hell, then surely we would be looking for every opportunity to share the Good News?

### ***Do we believe the Gospel?***

### ***Have we become complacent?***

### ***Have we made our excuses idols by placing them on the throne of our hearts?***

Whatever our answer, we need God to restore us to obedience.

We need a revelation of what it means to be saved from sin and restored to a relationship with our Heavenly Father.

### **Psalm 51:12 – 15 NKJV**

*12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You. 14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.*

### **Psalm 51:12 – 15 NLT**

*12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. 13 Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you. 14 Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves; then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness. 15 Unseal my lips, O Lord, that my mouth may praise you.*

**“True praise cannot exist without the knowledge of the utter hopelessness and ugliness of our sin, and the magnitude of God’s love and saving grace to overcome our lost state, through the cross of His Son, Jesus Christ!”**