

Run Your Race

2 Timothy 4:1-8

Pastor David Ax

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER GS 634 Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Interesting how you can tell when something is off, or different...
Without reading too much into it, as you pass from the first letter to the second that Timothy receives, there is a different tone.

First letter.

Beware of false teachers

Desiring to be teachers of the law, understand neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

- **Pray** for all men
- **Generational Mentorship**
- **Qualifications** for leaders within the church
- **Widows** and those in need
- **Master and Bondservants**
- **Warning to the poor**
- **Rich** shouldn't trust in Riches

Second letter.

- **I remember your faith** and the faith of your family
- **Don't be ashamed**
- **Hold Fast** the pattern of sound words
- **Be strong** in the grace that is in Christ
 - no one engaged in warfare
- **Flee youthful lusts**
- **Avoid foolish and ignorant disputes**
- **Perilous Times** and perilous people

There seems to be added sincerity, an increased urgency the second time around and concludes with a fairly sobering exhortation.

2 Timothy 4:1-8

The Foundation

2 Timothy 4:1

We can look at "the charge" in a minute but the foundation of everything that this "young" leader is being encouraged to do cannot be ignored or glossed over.

Before God and the Lord Jesus who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing.

Who gets the final say? Christ.

Who weighs out the hearts of men? Christ.

In the end, who will we give an account to? Christ.

At His appearing and His Kingdom

Matthew 6:24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

- If you are about your appearing and kingdom, you cannot be for His.

All will stand, two different judgments (one for believers, one for unbelievers)

1. Great White Throne (**Revelation 20:11-15**)
2. The Judgment seat of Christ for believers (**1 Cor. 3:13-15**)

For some it will be like a soldier who was sent to war with all the right equipment but hid behind a tree. – as a good soldier must endure hardship?

Though there is a distinction that needs to be understood between the two judgments they are not to be forgotten.

Judge: power, authority, final say...

Based on the fact that God is judge,

- "I charge you"

Commission, or to declare, it carries with it a commanding presence

The Charge

2 Timothy 4:2-5

PREACH THE WORD

Not become a preacher but to preach or make known, to declare.

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed...

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Psalms 138:2 I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

Unfailing and everlasting

Luke 21:33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

No new revelation – same truth today as the day the Holy Spirit gave it to us.

In Season & Out of Season

Convenient or Inconvenient

When the cloud moved... ready or not, time to pack up and move.

Be ready -

Instantaneous response

911 Call comes in

That person who will stop traffic to rescue a stray dog.

Not just occupationally or as a position but practically, preach the word.
Make truth known.

How do we uncover God's truth to people in our lives?

The approach

Convince:

Not to argue but to expose or bring to the light... with the intent to correct.

Dental Lights

Rebuke:

To address or confront the issue... with sharpness.

Don't beat around the bush... drill into it

Again, with the intent, not to bring shame or condemnation but truth

Beware

- *"Not as bad as I was"*

- *"I feel like a hypocrite"*

Be sure the punishment fits the crime

Matthew 17:18 - Jesus rebuked the demon

Mark 8:32 - Peter rebuked Jesus

Luke 18:39 - the crowd rebuked (warned) the blind man

Luke 23:40 one thief to the other, rebuked... do you not fear God.

Exhort:

To encourage or strengthen by bringing along side.

"No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care."

The attitude - It is very possible to do the right thing the wrong way

What's WRONG WITH YOU!!! Vs. What happened, you know better...

With all longsuffering and teaching

Patient Instruction

Kindergarten teacher

Help them understand... like blown glass

IT WILL BE HARD

Itching ear

"THEY" will turn "THEIR" ears away from truth, and be turned aside to fables.

False teachers do so much to rise up as much as they are raised up.

According to their own desires...

It's easy to find someone to tell you what you want to hear.

- go sky diving
- buy a new car
- quit your job
- divorce your wife/husband

no skin off their back...

The dilemma between instant but temporary, satisfaction vs. everlasting forgiveness, joy, freedom and forgiveness.

"The reality is Sin comes from within"

The greatest battle is against ourselves... not Satan

- Sin comes from within

BE WATCHFUL, FULFILL YOUR MINISTRY

Speaks of a calm but careful observation of circumstances... (scene of accident)

Fulfill: carry through to the end...

The Finnish Line

2 Timothy 4:6-8

I AM Poured OUT

Philippians 2:17 yes, and if I am being poured out *as a drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

Not perfected but poured out

Proverbs 24:16 For a righteous *man* may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity

It's exciting to see the Bible alive in your life

- Husbands love your wives
- Wives respect your husbands
- Don't provoke your children to wrath
- Train them up
- Make disciples
- Love your enemies
- Guard your heart

I CANNOT SAY... I have run my race, not yet anyways

I have ran my race

1 Corinthians 9:24 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*.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

(Not running in circles) there is a destination.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.**

(it is set before you... the path has already been determined)

Not how far but how well (Saved at a young age vs. old age)

(Olympics)

- Crown of Righteousness (deemed righteous - gold medal)
- Crown given from Christ

ANOTHER APPERING (tie the two together)

Verse 1 & 8

How is it that someone can be looking forward to the coming of Christ?

Easy, they loved that fact that He already came... there is nothing better.

BEFORE GOD

I charge you **BEFORE GOD**... not friends, not family, not Paul... **JESUS!**

The Foundation was Christ, as Judge of the living and the dead

Paul expressed following him as he followed Christ

Paul wouldn't be judge, Christ is

Paul, though fully committed... it is Christ who gave Himself completely