

# Do the work as instructed!

DECEMBER 5, 2022

**2 TIMOTHY 4:2 NKJV – (2)** Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

**2 TIMOTHY 4:5 NKJV – (5)** But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

After four warnings about those who would turn from the Word of God in the future, Paul gives Timothy four positive commands. **First**, Timothy was to be focused and alert, talking his life and role seriously.

**Second**, Timothy needs to "endure suffering." Endurance is a major theme in this letter, mentioned several times already. The idea is not merely "surviving" situations but maintaining his Christian perspective during those hard times.

**Third**, Timothy is to "do the work of an evangelist." An evangelist is literally a person who presented the good news of Christ. Timothy, whether this was his spiritual gift or not, is being commanded to communicate the gospel as part of his ministry as a church leader. What's also interesting about this is how Paul has not described Timothy. Specifically, Timothy is not being referred to as an "apostle," a term Paul used of himself (**2 Timothy 1:1**). According to the New Testament, true "apostles" were only those men specifically commissioned as "sent ones" by Christ. Those who came after may be evangelists, such as Timothy, but they cannot be "apostles."

**Fourth**, Timothy is to more than endure; he is to accomplish the purposes of his ministry calling. Ministry is hard work and there is often a temptation to quit. There is a natural lure to settle for less than our best. Here, Paul commands Timothy to continue, even during difficult times, to complete the calling God had given him.

Now, I want to encourage my brothers and sister disciples in the faith with words of wisdom said to me as a reminder. Fulfill your ministry. Yes, church has changed, and the truth be told, people are angry and they are irritated. At a drop of a hat if another ministry comes along or even a better church, they will just up and leave you. Givers will walk off and leave you. But we can't let that discourage you! YOU fulfill your ministry! God did not call you to preach just because the house is full and God did not call you to preach just because our biggest givers are still there. Instead, the Apostle Paul gives us our instructions in the verses above! We must remember that even when we preach it is possible that no one will get saved! Ask Noah or Jeremiah. There is a great award that awaits us who fulfill and fulfill as Christ has instructed. "The Crown of Righteousness." Now, "[Do the work as instructed.](#)"

**SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 6:8**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** People are dying during the holidays to. Have they been told?

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"