

2 Timothy 4

Sunday 7/5/2009

I was talking with a good friend of mine on the way in here this morning who told me that yesterday a few people were talking about the fact that I was going to be filling in for Bob today. They asked, "Church will probably get over a little bit earlier then, don't you think?" To which my friend Bubba said, "You've met Danny before, right?" So, we will see. I do appreciate the kind words from my friend.

I was talking to Bob this week, and one of the things Bob talked about last week, and he has mentioned this a couple of times before, is that we get spoiled here at this church. We get spoiled with the teaching and the preaching that we receive. One of these Sundays, he is going to tell everybody except our new people just to go find another church someplace and go listen someplace else just so they can appreciate what they actually have here. Instead, he decided just to go out of town, and he is going to have Bubba preach next week.

I. Rules of Bible Study

If you have been around here very long at all, and most of you have, you know that there are certain absolute rules of Bible study that you have to follow if you are going to put the Bible together. These are the things that Bob pounds into us over and over again to get us to learn and to understand. It is actually the reason that he is doing these classes on Saturday mornings to help a lot of you.

Some of these rules always determine the context before trying to determine what a verse means. A mistake that so many people make when they are reading the Bible is that they look at something, and as Bob has said before, they do not have any idea where to put it. They do not understand the context of what they are reading, so they misinterpret it. They try to figure out what it is saying, and they do not really know what is going on.

Then you have the rule that states that the Bible has proper divisions, and you must put these divisions in the right place. All Scripture has three applications: historical, doctrinal, and inspirational. The Bible is written to three different people groups: Jews, Gentiles, and the church. These are the exact things that Bob is laying out for you in such a great fashion on these Saturday morning classes. For those of you that were here the first time last month, this is exactly what he is doing for you. He is giving you these rules in a format to help you begin to understand and put the Bible together and learn these basic structures so that as you read the Bible and as you begin to learn it, you put all these things together.

Then, of course, you have the law of first mention. The law of first mention means that generally speaking, almost 100% of the time, the first time that a word or a concept or some sort of teaching shows up in the Bible, it is going to define that for the rest of the Bible. That is why the first book in your Bible is the book of Genesis, called the Book of the Beginnings. Almost every major doctrine that you have in your Bible is defined for you in the book of Genesis within the first 12 chapters.

There is another rule that goes along with the law of first mention that we do not talk about or think about quite as much, and that is the law of last mention. There is a certain aspect of things that you can learn by looking at the last thing that somebody says or that somebody teaches in the Bible, or the last thing that is actually in the Bible. That is one of the things we are going to look at today here in 2 Timothy 4. In the Jewish Bible, 2 Chronicles is the last book. The last thing that the nation of Israel is told at the end of their Bible is to go back to the land. That is what they are instructed to do. For our Bible, the last book is the book of Revelation. The last thing said in the book of Revelation is, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." So, we know that our focus every day of our lives should be looking towards the rapture of the church, looking towards, hoping, and praying for that day when we get to go home to be with the Lord.

There are several famous last speeches in the Bible that if you really want to learn some things, you study these things and you find out these great men in the Bible, the final things that they had to say before they left this earth, and when they had finished the job that God had left for them to do.

- Genesis 49 and Jacob speaking to his sons.
- Deuteronomy 32 and 33 and Moses addressing the nation of Israel.
- Joshua 24 and Joshua addressing the nation of Israel.
- 2 Samuel 23:1-7 and David making his final statement to the world.
- John 13-17 and Jesus making His last speech to His disciples before His crucifixion.
- Acts 7 and Stephen speaking to the leadership of the nation of Israel before he is stoned.
- 2 Timothy 4, which is going to be our text this morning, and Paul speaking to Timothy, giving him his final words, his final thoughts.

When you have the man that is responsible for delivering the doctrine to the church, basically that wrote two-thirds of your entire New Testament, and he sits down and puts his final thoughts on paper and gives his final instructions, you and I as New Testament believers had better take a look and had better take a listen to what he has to say. It is going to be vastly important for us to have the success that God wants us to have and to be able to accomplish what He has for us.

Now Paul lists five things here in 2 Timothy 4 that we are going to take a look at that he tells Timothy he needs to do. These are the last things that he tells him before he closes out his ministry and goes home to be with the Lord.

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

II. Five Instructions from Paul

Five things are listed here in 2 Timothy 4 that Paul is instructing Timothy as his final instructions, his last speech, his final words before he leaves.

- 1.) Preach the Word
- Be Instant, In Season, Out of Season
- Reprove, Rebuke, and Exhort
- 2.) Watch in All Things
- 3.) Endure Afflictions
- 4.) Do the Work of an Evangelist
- 5.) Make Full Proof of Thy Ministry