

**Equipped to Faithfully Proclaim the Gospel**  
**(2 Timothy 4:1-8)**  
**“Share the Gospel”**

**I. Be Ready (2 Timothy 4:1-2)**

a. Preach “Preach the Word” First aorist active imperative of kērusō. Kerusso is to herald the good news, the truth. This is the first of five imperatives that Paul charges Timothy with. I’ve placed these into three categories. People will never know the truth until we tell them the truth. Share the gospel!

b. Prepare (Pray and prepare) “be ready in season and out of season” I read a book about Billy Graham. When he was asked what he would do if he knew that Christ was returning in three years, his reply was that he would spend the first two years in prayer and the final year preaching the gospel. We must not forsake the prayer stage of preparation. Prayer knocks down those strongholds that can only be knocked down through the power of God!

c. Prescribe “reprove, rebuke, and exhort...” Share the truth in love. Galatians 6:1 ***“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.”***

**II. Be Resilient (2 Timothy 4:3-5)** Some would define resiliency as the ability to bounce back. A rubber band is a great illustration of resiliency, after being stretched, the rubber band returns back to its original shape. Be resilient, bounce back knowing that what to come in Christ is far superior than anything we can imagine. The times will be bad and will get worse, we are seeing that today. Verse 5 tells us how to be resilient in Christ.

- a. Keep a clear head “always be sober-minded”
- b. Endure with confidence “endure suffering”
- c. Communicate the gospel “do the work of an evangelist”
- d. Contribute to Kingdom work “fulfill your ministry.”

**III. Be Striving for the Reward (2 Timothy 4:6-8)** What is the reward? Faithfulness to Christ!

a. Paul is presently being faithful to the ministry of Christ. (v.6) I have heard many times, “pastor, when I get this accomplished, I’ll serve in the church. What are you presently doing to pour yourself out, to be a sacrifice for the Kingdom? What are you presently doing to share the gospel?”

b. Paul has a history or a past of faithfulness to the ministry of Christ. (v.7) At the end of your life, will you be able to say this same thing? Lord, I have served you with a good life!

c. Paul encourages future plans for faithfulness to the gospel ministry. (v.8) What plan do you have to proclaim the gospel, to become more equipped, and to intentionally equip others? Prayerfully consider joining the Equip Community.

Some scholars believe that a disciple, an understudy of Paul, wrote the book of Hebrews. Listen to the encouragement from this letter to strive forward towards the reward of serving Christ in

Hebrews 12:1-2 ***“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”***

Throughout this series you’ve prayerfully began becoming equipped to Guard the Gospel, Suffer for the Gospel, Be a Servant of the Gospel, Continue in the Gospel, and to Share the Gospel. It’s one thing to learn about all of this, but Christ expects us to do it! The Great Commission and the Great Commandment require it of every believer. The numbers are alarming and it clearly indicates that we haven’t been sharing our faith and making disciples. One way that we can do this in a loving way is to be intentional. Be intentional in your prayer life, in building relationships, and in your conversations. Some of you have been doing Equip Community Groups. This is the model that we have adopted for a season that allows us to invite our neighbors to share a meal with us and discuss questions that I normally attach at the bottom of our bulletin listening guide. Christ has given you a home to be a ministry! Use it for His glory. Pray about opening your home to become an Equip Community Group host home. Your coworker, friend, or neighbor will more likely come to your home first, before coming to church. Pray, and be bold! You can sign up to host an Equip Community Group in the foyer. The official kickoff for this ministry is Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.

How will you respond? Will you be a disciple maker? There are only two options: 1. Make much of Jesus Christ by making disciples for Him, or 2. Make much of yourself? I want to glorify God!