

The Call to Ministry

Mike Magee's Licensing to the Gospel Ministry
2 Timothy 4:1-8

How do you know that you've been called to ministry? Every Christian has been called to do ministry, but some are called to become elders or oversees in Christ's Church and some to become Deacons, servants. These are the two offices in the New Testament Church. The difference is one is a teacher/overseer and the other is a servant. Both are amazing offices. So this message really applies to every believer here, yes a charge to Mike Magee today, but every believer will benefit. Mike, you know God has called you, doors have been opened, you have an extreme desire to preach and teach God's Word! So today is a special day of us recognizing that, celebrating that, and we as your sending church, Oak Hill Baptist Church, are committing to pray for you! Allow me to charge you Mike and to challenge the congregation with 2 Tim. 4:1-8.

I. The Charge to Preach the Word of God (2 Timothy 4:1-2) a. When? At all times- "In season and out of season" b. Why? "Reprove, rebuke, and exhort" the Word of God has a way of doing spiritual surgery that is the instrument of the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 4:12 states this truth: "*For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*" The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God as a surgical knife, to remove the cancer of sin in our lives. Church, that's why it is so important to be around the Word often, both corporately and individually. It's vital to our spiritual development. c. How? "with complete patience and teaching." Have passion in the pulpit and patience with people.

Preach the Word of God because people do not know about Jesus. **Romans 10:14-15** "*How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"*"

II. The Compassion to Proclaim the Truth of God (2 Timothy 4:3-4) It is very possible to fill seats with motivating words by preaching a false gospel. Without preaching the truth of God's Word, and without preaching repentance from sin, we would be acting as an air conditioner on a train to Hell! Sacrifice for the truth, this is the lifegiving hope of what appears an offensive gospel! Listen to CH Spurgeon concerning the truth.

"The church of Christ is continually represented under the figure of an army; yet its Captain is the Prince of Peace; its object is the establishment of peace, and its soldiers are men of a peaceful disposition. The spirit of war is at the extremely opposite point to the spirit of the gospel. Yet nevertheless, the church on earth has, and until the second advent must be, the church militant, the church armed, the church warring, the church conquering. And how is this? It is in the very order of things that so it must be. Truth could not be truth in this world if it were not a warring thing, and we should at once suspect that it were not true if error were friends with it. The spotless purity of truth must always be at war with the blackness of heresy and lies." – CH Spurgeon

Jesus said this about the truth as it is recorded in John 8:31-36: “ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’” 34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

We want people to be set free by the truth of God’s Word! We want them to be truly liberated by the gospel. We want people to experience the love and cleansing blood of Christ our King!

Paul and Timothy were combating false teachers described in chapter 2 as teaching that those in Christ had already been raised. Paul battled this same issue in the Corinthian church. In Chapter 3 he battled against self-centered godlessness.

Most people today outside of Christ will align with 1 or 2 philosophies. 1. Secular Humanism- the belief that humanity is capable of morality and self-fulfillment without belief in God. 2. Relativism- the doctrine that knowledge, truth, and morality exist in relation to culture, society, or historical context, and are not absolute. Paul tells us that the gospel doesn’t make sense until the Holy Spirit awakens us: 1 Corinthians 1:18 *“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”* **Proclaim the Truth of God**

III. The Challenge to Persevere in the Service of God (2 Timothy 4:5-7) 1. **Render the Armor of God**. The gospel ministry will be the toughest endeavor you will ever do! Satan wants to stop you, knock you, lock you, and block you, but through the power of the Holy Spirit you’ve got to stand up and put on the full armor of God! 2. **Refuel with the Word of God**. The very same instrument that you use for God’s work, is the same instrument that will renew and sustain you, God’s Word. Study it for God’s work, but feast in it for nourishment from God. 3. **Rely on the Men of God**. Call upon those who have been through the fight to help you in the fight. Pride is the biggest reason men quit the ministry. Ministry is meant to be done in community.

IV. The Confidence to Stand Upon the Promises of God (2 Timothy 4:8) You do what you believe! If you believe that Jesus Christ is the only way, the truth, and the life, than you will share that, you’re confident that this is correct. The promises of God bring us greater joy than whether or not we are liked! Our hearts desire is for everyone to experience the true joy of knowing Christ! What’s the answer? The confidence in the truth of the Great Commission! The Holy Spirit is still harvesting, we’ve got to plant, cultivate, and we’ll see the harvest as we love the truth of Jesus Christ! ***Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”***