

/We will begin the fourteenth lecture on 2 Timothy. /At this time we will study 2 Timothy chapter 4. /The main passage is Paul's last words of encouragement.

/Verses 1-5 are commands to preach the gospel. /It is a valuable calling for the church today to preach the gospel. /There are still many chosen believers in the world today.

/Read verse 1. /In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

/It says, "In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead." /Judgment awaits all who are in heaven and in hell. /God will also judge each church for whether or not they are fulfilling their calling and mission.

/The Lord will judge this world when He returns. /Thus, it says, "in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge." /God commanded that we "evangelize." /Our Lord also came and preached the gospel to many people on this earth.

/Jesus is also very pleased when we evangelize. /There are also many rewards in the kingdom of God for those who diligently preach the gospel. /The purpose for leaders in the church /and the building of churches /is to preach the gospel and save souls.

/Today, there are many chosen believers /and wandering people who do not know God. /Who are the most pitiful people in today's world? /It is not the poor. /It is not the uneducated.

/The most pitiful people are those who do not know Jesus and will go to hell. /There is undoubtedly heaven and hell that awaits people. /Those who believe in Jesus will go to heaven, /and those who do not believe will all go to hell.

/Thus, believers who have been saved must diligently evangelize. /How did God tell us to preach the gospel?

/Verse 2. /Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-- with great patience and careful instruction.

/First, we must preach God's Word. /We do not preach according to ways of man. /We must testify to the cross and resurrection of Jesus. /We must testify to the truth that Jesus died on the cross because of our sins, /and that He rose again from the dead in three days.

/The core of the gospel is the cross and resurrection of Jesus. /The cross and resurrection alone can save lives. /Verse 2 says to preach God's Word in season and out of season. /This means that we must use the opportunities that God gives us.

/We must diligently preach the gospel no matter what circumstances we are in. /God allows us to meet certain people so that we could preach the gospel. /We must not miss

out on the chances God gives us.

/If we do not preach the gospel when we were given the chance to, /and that person never hears about the gospel and goes to hell, we are partly responsible for him. /Third, it says to be prepared. /To “be prepared” means to preach with persistence.

/We must not give up or be disheartened, /but we must ceaselessly preach the gospel. /It is easy to give up when things do not go well. /However, we must leave others’ belief or unbelief to God. /Our job is to diligently preach the gospel.

/Thus, we need endurance and patience. /We cannot evangelize if we do not have patience. /A mother needs to endure about ten months for one person to be born into this world. /A farmer needs to be patient after sowing for harvest in the fall.

/We must be patient as we teach God’s Word, /and at times, we must reproach others. /We must let people know that they will go to hell if they do not solve the problem of their sins. /We must lead them to Jesus so that their problem of sin could be resolved.

/It also says, “rebuke and encourage.” /To “rebuke” means to encourage believers to cut off all sins. /We must encourage others to cut off their sins and return to God. /We must encourage and plant courage and hope in them. /The world today is corrupt and does not receive God’s Word.

/Verses 3-4 tell us that men do not accept proper teaching. /Those who accept God’s Word are those who are blessed. /Then why don’t people accept God’s Word? /There is a reason.

/Verse 3. /For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

/It says, “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine.” /What type of people do not receive proper teaching? /They are those who chase after their own desires with itching ears. /Men chase after greed. /All men have abandoned God because of their greed.

/Verse 4 says, “They will turn their ears away from the truth.” /It is valuable for one to receive God’s truth. /However, men do not accept God’s Word because of their inner greed and sins.

/Men chase after futile words. /They chase after foolish stories, /empty myths, /and selfish interests and desires. /Then must we give up if people do not accept God’s Word? /We must not give up but properly preach. /Then with what attitudes must we preach?

/Verse 5. /But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an

evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

/It says, “keep your head in all situations.” /This means to preach while being careful in all areas. /There are many sufferings that come with preaching the gospel. /There are times when we are cursed at, /when we make many sacrifices, /and even sacrifice our lives.

/Jesus sacrificed His life for us on the cross. /The forefathers of faith also gave up their lives for the gospel. /We must not be afraid of sufferings. /The life of one man is more important than all of creation. /We must also follow the Lord and sacrifice even our lives and preach the gospel.

/Verse 5 says, “discharge all the duties of your ministry.” /The calling of believers in the church are valuable. /We must not be careless with the duties God entrusted us with. /We must believe that God called us and uses us, and we must do our best to preach the gospel.

/How much did we do our best today! /If we do not evangelize, we will receive judgment when we later stand before God. /Those who do their best to evangelize will be complimented, /and those who do not properly evangelize will be reproached.

/We must not be afraid of sufferings, and we must preach the gospel. /Verses 6-8 tell us about Paul’s account of faith.

/Verse 6. /Paul said, “I am already being poured out like a drink offering.” /“A drink offering” is the sacrifice of martyrdom. /Paul also says, “the time has come for my departure.” /Everyone is a stranger in this world.

/Everyone will one day leave this world. /Our home is not in this world, but in the kingdom of God. /Traveling foreigners return to their homeland when their trips are over. /We will also go to heaven when our days as strangers here on earth are over.

/We must not keep hope in this place that is not our home, but we must keep our hope in our heavenly home. /We will one day leave behind everything in this world. /We must use everything God allowed us to have for the gospel, and then go to heaven.

/Paul writes his final confession in verse 7. /Here, Paul confesses that he lived his best for the gospel. /What is Paul’s final confession?

/Verse 7. /I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

/First, Paul says that he had fought the good fight. /Paul fought against evil spirits, /and he fought against false ideologies. /Today, the church is a combatant church. /We will fight in an endless spiritual battle until the day we are called to be with God.

/Who is the subject of our battle? /We must fight and defeat the devil. /The devil makes

us sin, /makes us fall, /and comes between God and us to separate us from God.

/The devil uses our weaknesses to make us fall. /We must arm ourselves with God's Word and with prayer so that we may defeat the devil. /Today, we cannot defeat the powers of the devil if we are not armed with a full armor.

/We must also fight against and overcome sin. /There are many temptations of sin in this world. /We must fight against sin so that we could do good and serve God well. /We must also fight with ourselves and we must win.

/We must fight with the old self within us. /We must also fight against the desires of the flesh, /and also against thoughts of the flesh that stand against God. /Whoever wins in the battle against himself is a great winner. /We must also fight against the world.

/The corrupt world continuously tempts us. /It makes us compromise with the world. /We live in the world but we must not make any compromises with it. /We must fulfill our duties as the light and salt of this world.

/We must also be changed so that we would have power to change the world. /Second, Paul said that he had finished the race. /Paul raced forward to fulfill his calling.

/God entrusted Paul with a calling to preach the gospel throughout the entire world. /God used Paul as an instrument to preach the gospel to Gentiles. /Thus, Paul raced forward towards the world so that he could preach the gospel.

/He held the world in his heart as he preached the gospel. /Paul also raced forward so that he would fulfill God's will. /Paul kept his mind on how he would fulfill God's will.

/Paul also raced forward so that he would be like the Lord. /How can we become more and more like Jesus? /Is our faith remaining in the same place? /Are we being lazy? /We must get up and race forward.

/We must keep the gospel in mind as we diligently race forward. /We must race towards the Lord daily. /Third, it says that Paul kept the faith. /Paul took good care of his spirit.

/Paul was in many circumstances where he could have lost his faith. /He received great suffering because of Jesus, /received great persecution, /was beaten numerous times, /and was imprisoned several times as well.

/However, Paul did not yield his faith in the midst of it all. /He kept the chastity of his faith. /Today, this generation is a corrupted one. /It says that it will be difficult for the Lord to find faith when He returns.

/Even if this world may change, /we must continue to keep our faith in God. /We must keep the chastity of our faith. /We must unchangingly love the Lord, /be unchangingly faithful, /and must unchangingly carry out the calling we have been entrusted with.

/Many people have abandoned their faith in these last days. /Therefore, we must follow Paul's example of faith. /Even if many people abandon their faith, /we must keep our faith in God until the end.

/We must be spiritually discipline ourselves so that we would live in faith. /We must examine ourselves daily to see if there is faith in us. /We must examine ourselves daily to see if we have confidence in our salvation. /We must examine ourselves daily to see if God's Word dwells within us.

/We must examine ourselves to see whether or not our faith is shaken in different circumstances. /I pray that you would live in faith so that you would not have any regrets. /Then what is the promise that is given to those who keep their faith?

/Read verse 8. /Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-- and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

/It says, "Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness." /God prepared a crown for the apostle Paul. /Today, the Lord has prepared a crown for us as well.

/Jesus will judge with impartiality as the righteous Judge. /Will the saved believers receive the crown? Or will they not? /This will be determined in this world today. /Today, students /receive awards when they study well in school.

/All students receive diplomas when they finish school, /but only those who worked exceptionally hard will receive awards. /We, as saved believers, must be faithful to God if we want to receive the crowns. /The righteous Judge will judge with exactness.

/Verse 8 also says, /"not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." /The saved believers /must race forward by looking towards the crown.

/There are athletes in the Olympic games /who receive the gold medal, /the silver medal, /the bronze medal, /and some who don't receive any medals. /The honor they receive is exceptional. /How much did these athletes train to receive medals?

/Athletes cannot eat or relax as they please, but they train to achieve medals. /However, the glory of winning medals in this world will soon pass. /However, the crown we will receive from God will last forever.

/We will participate in the glory of God for an eternity. /This is the crown that will shine forever. /The Bible tells us that we, too, can receive this crown.

/We must not find satisfaction in heaven alone, /but we must race towards the crown, /fight the good fight and win, /look towards the crown, and live in faith until the end.

/Verses 9-15 /speak of deserters, /fellow workers, /and opposers. /There were those who deserted Paul after once serving God, /there were those who worked in partnership with Paul, /and there were those who opposed the church. /Who were the deserters in verse 10?

/Read verse 10. /for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.

/There are three deserters in verse 10. /Demas, at first, obeyed Paul. /Yet, his faith declined soon after. /He loved the world more than God, and hence, he left Paul.

/People chase after what they love. /If they love money, they chase after money, /if they love the world, they chase after the world, /if they love honor and glory, they chase after honor and glory.

/Demas loved the world, and thus, deserted Paul /and went to Thessalonica. /Crescens went to Galatia, /and Titus went to Dalmatia. /They abandoned grace.

/God blessed them with grace, /but they abandoned grace /and abandoned their teacher. / They did not have confidence in the truth. /One must have confidence in God's Word for him not to leave the truth.

/The three deserters also only thought of themselves. /They were self-centered, /and they abandoned the world of truth and faith because they loved themselves. /Although these men abandoned Paul, there were others who supported Paul.

/Who were the people who helped Paul? /Verse 9 says, "Do your best to come to me quickly." /Here, Paul is addressing Timothy. /Timothy was Paul's good fellow worker.

/Timothy was Paul's son in faith /and a servant whom Paul could trust. /Today, we must be like Timothy. /Are we people whom our leaders can trust? /Are we fellow workers who respect God's servants?

/Furthermore, verse 11 says, "Luke" was helpful to Paul. /Luke was a doctor, and he remained with Paul until the end. /Luke encountered many difficulties but he did not give up. /He overcame all circumstances to help Paul.

/Next, Paul tells Timothy to bring Mark. /It says, "because he is helpful to me in my ministry." /However, in the past, Mark made mistakes, /betrayed the apostles, /and was quite useless.

/However, Mark changed and was now a helpful man. /This can be shocking news to us. / Even if we were once obstructive in the past, /we must now receive God's Word and change.

/How can I be a good partner? /How can I become cooperative? /Mark used his failures in

the past as a mirror /to change into a man who was helpful to others.

/Verse 12 says, “I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.” /Tychicus was a good worker who was there to help when Paul needed him. /Those who are helpful today will be blessed.

/We must be used by God /according to our spiritual gifts, /talents, /and skills. /We must be people who are needed in this generation.

/If the Lord wants to use us, we must immediately be ready to work. /Next, Paul tells Timothy to bring his cloak and scrolls.

/Read verse 13. /When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

/Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter. /He was extremely cold in prison. /He asked Timothy to bring his cloak when he visited. /Our flesh belongs to the Lord. /We must take care of our bodies and devote ourselves to the Lord.

/There are people who abuse their own bodies. /However, our bodies have been bought with the blood of our Lord. /Therefore, we must take good care of our health. /We must take care of our bodies so that we may be used as weapons of righteousness for the Lord.

/Next, it says, “especially the parchments.” /This refers to the Bible. /Paul continuously meditated on God’s Word, /and he kept God’s Word close to him.

/Why did Paul tell Timothy to bring this book? /We must take good care of our bodies, but we must also take good care of our souls. /Our souls must eat the daily food of God’s Word.

/We must diligently read God’s Word, /hear God’s Word, /and must meditate on and practice God’s Word in our lives. /We must daily eat food for our souls so that we may remain healthy. /The writer of Psalms also speaks of this.

/It says in Psalm 1, /“his delight is in the law of the LORD, /and on his law he meditates day and night” so that one would receive blessings. /We must daily meditate on God’s Word so that we may maintain spiritual health.

/Thus, we must diligently read God’s Word, /and meditate on and understand his Word. /There were those who were helpful to Paul, /but in verses 14-15, there were men who opposed Paul.

/Verse 14. /Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done.

/Alexander the metalworker caused a great deal of harm to Paul. /He was Paul’s thorn, /and he tormented Paul in his heart. /There are people like Alexander in the church today.

/Those who harm the church, /and hurt God's leaders /cannot receive blessings from God.

/Verse 14 also says, /"The Lord will repay him for what he has done." /This means that God will judge Alexander for his wrongdoings. /Our Lord will soon judge the goodness and wickedness of man.

/God will commend and reward /those who served and helped the church of the church and servants of the Lord. /However, God will rebuke and judge /people like Alexander /who bring harm upon others. /God is God who will surely judge good and evil.

/God knows how each one of us lived our lives. /God is impartial and makes us reap what we sow, /and repays each of us according to how we lived our lives. /Paul also warned Timothy.

/Verse 15. /You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

/Paul encountered hardships because of Alexander, /and so he told his loving son, Timothy, to "be on your guard against him." /Today, we must be careful of wicked people in the church.

/It teaches us that there are three types of people in the church. /No matter how well we properly teach God's Word in the church, /there will be people who will soon betray us. /There are also people who will support and help the church and believers, /and there will be people like Alexander who will bring damage to the church.

/What type of people must we become? /We must always help the church, /support God's servants, and be faithful workers.

/However, in the midst of all this, the apostle Paul /did not blame anyone nor was he discouraged. /He looked only towards God and was faithful. /In verses 16-18, Paul confesses that the Lord delivered him.

/Verse 16. /At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them.

/Paul did not pass on responsibility to them. /Paul was determined not to hold anything against them /Paul left everything in God's hands. /Paul's heart was Jesus' heart. /He relied only on God and carried out his calling.

/His heart was a heart of forgiveness, /a heart of tolerance, /and a heart that acted with faith. /Even if people desert and oppose us, /or leave us, /our Lord will never leave us, but deliver us.

/Read verse 17. /But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me

the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth.

/Even if people may leave us, the Lord will stand by those who are faithful to Him. /People cannot be depended on. /Here, Paul teaches us leaders with a good message. /People will leave us, /betray us, /and will oppose us.

/However, when we do the work of God, we must not look upon people, /but look upon the Lord and be faithful to Him. /Our Lord must be our strength. /The apostle Paul was able to carry on with his calling.

/He was able to because the Lord stood by his side. /God gave him strength to carry out his calling. /God's Word was proclaimed by the grace of the Lord, /and there were great difficulties, /but the Lord delivered Paul from the lion's mouth.

/Today, we must not depend on people, /but depend on the Lord /and look upon and go forward in the Lord, /then the Lord will protect us, /give us strength and power, /and save us from difficult circumstances. /Then Paul gave all the glory and praises to God.

/Read verse 18. /The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

/The apostle Paul gave glory and praises to God. /What did Paul give glory for? /Verse 18 says, "The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack."

/Paul confessed that he was not rescued by his own strength or powers, /but that the Lord rescued him. /Paul also confessed that the Lord would bring him safely into heaven. /God is the one who takes us into heaven.

/Man does not go to heaven through his own success. /Salvation is wholly God's grace. /Paul understood this /and gave thanks, /praises, /and glory to God.

/Today, there are people who do not give thanks /for the grace that they receive. /We must always be thankful to God and glorify him.

/Verses 19-22 record Paul's final greetings and blessings. /Verses 19-20 record all of Paul's fellow workers.

/Verse 19. /Greet Priscilla and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus.

/It says, "Greet Priscilla and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus." /What type of people were Priscilla and Aquila? /They gave up their lives for Paul and worked for the gospel. /This couple were very good workers.

/They became one in faith, and were faithful as they supported God's servant. /There must be good couples like them in the church today. /God considers faithful couples

valuable.

/Paul blesses and greets his brothers, /Onesiphorus, /Erastus, /Trophimus, /Eubulus,
/Pudens, /Linus, /and Claudia. /In this way, all who are used by God will be commended
for eternity.

/Then Paul gives his blessing in verse 22. /We must always keep the Lord in our hearts,
/and we must live in the fullness of God's grace. /I pray that the Lord will be with your
church and your families, /and I pray that the grace of the Lord will be with you always.

/Here we will conclude the fourteenth lecture. /Thank you.