

18 November 2018: Preached by Rev Clement Chew

Topic: A Study of 2 Timothy: Preach the Word!

Scripture text: 2 Tim 4:1-5

1. Apostle Paul solemnly commanded Timothy to preach God's Word for that is the primary duty of a pastor. Preaching is a wholehearted proclamation of God's Word under the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Only the Word of God can lead a sinner to Christ for salvation, hence it has to be done with utmost carefulness. The preacher is accountable to the Lord for his work done on earth and must be faithful in his duty (verse 1).

2. The preacher must be ready to preach at all times regardless of whether it is during his appointed time, ad hoc engagements, times of inconvenience or danger. The Word of God is used to reprove, rebuke and exhort the hearers. To reprove is to make the meaning of God's Word clear such that the Holy Spirit is able to use it to convict sinners of their sins. To rebuke is to warn the hearers of their sins and its consequences in a direct manner. To exhort is to use doctrine to encourage the hearers to follow God. To rebuke, reprove and exhort the hearers are oftentimes not welcomed and one has to forebear under difficult circumstances (verse 2).

3. The time will soon come where people will not be receptive of sound doctrine due to their own lusts. They deceive themselves by turning to false teachers with false doctrines and myths. They do so to their own destruction. Only God's Word is the Truth (verses 3 and 4).

4. Timothy is commanded to maintain a sober mind and walk closely to God, endure mental and emotional sufferings, keep preaching and fulfill all his duties as a minister of God's Word (verse 5).