

## Unpacking the Preach

Date: 25th September 2022  
Sermon Title: Attend to your vision  
Bible Passage: 2 Timothy 4: 1 - 8

### **Introduction**

Take time to read the passage from a couple of different translations.

- Highlight the key verses from this passage and what they are saying?
- Does the passage raise any questions for you?

### **Recapping the Preach**

As Paul writes this passage there is a sense that he knows he is nearing the end of his life. He says he has run the race, kept the faith and now there is in store for him a crown of righteousness. He says it with confidence and with certainty which flows out of who Christ is and the grace and strength the Lord gave him to complete the task that he was set - to carry the name of Jesus to the gentiles, the Kings and Israel (Acts 9:15). Paul has attended to his vision, purpose and charge and therefore has confidence.

- How did Paul fight the good fight, finish the race and keep the faith? Can you think of examples from the book of Acts?
- What do you think Paul means when he says, 'he is already being poured out like a drink offering'?
- Where does Paul's confidence, that he will receive a crown of righteousness, come from?
- How can we foster the same sort of confidence?

Stu made the point that Paul was encouraging Timothy to attend to the vision, purpose and charge that he has been given. For Timothy this was simply stated as - preach the Word (2 Timothy 4:2).

- What do you think Paul meant when he said, 'Preach the Word'?
- What are the when, what, how and why of Paul's charge to Timothy to preach the Word?
- In verse 3 Paul says that a time is coming when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Do you think we are living in these times? What examples would you give to support your thoughts?

Stu concluded that the passage urges us, as followers of Jesus, to have the same confidence by attending to our vision, purpose and charge. He pointed out that there is a corporate application to this and an individual application. Corporately we are to attend to the charge of Matthew 28:18-20. Individually we are to know and nurture what the Lord has specifically set us apart to do.

- How would you describe the charge left for the church in Matthew 28:18-20? What aspects stand out to you?
- How can we discern/discover what purpose and charge we have individually?
- What is the importance (if any) of having a Bible verse to undergird this charge?

To begin with Stu read the below quote from former Archbishop of Canterbury:

*Are you looking into your vision? Are you letting yourself be shaped and changed by what you see? I'm asking, in fact, about the precise degree to which your vision is for you what you live by from day to day, a matter of life and death, sense and nonsense. Are you attending to your vision? Are you stripping yourself in prayer and before the terrible and searching Word of God? Are you being refined in that fire? And am I? Is my vision doing*

*that to me, braking and remaking my thoughts and words, my heart and mind? I have no right to destroy your vision, nor you mine. I have no business to devalue your understanding or make light of your struggles, nor you mine. But we have the right - and perhaps the duty - to put the questions to each other and hear them from each other.*

- How does this quote encourage / challenge you?
- What stands out in particular?

### **Response**

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- Write down your personal vision, purpose or charge in a simple sentence and spend time praying that the Lord will strengthen you in this.

### **Prayer pointers**

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.

### **Additional resources:**

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://bibleproject.com> (videos)
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>