

A Charge to Keep I Have

2 Timothy 4:1-4 (KJV) I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; ² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴ And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Giving Honor to God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. To All of God's Sons, Daughters, and Children. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow Big Bethel Nation. Let's turn to 2 Timothy 4:1-4 (KJV) as we lift up the Name of the Lord. The sermon topic is "A Charge to Keep I Have."

In this amazing text of scripture, we look into the life of Timothy as the Apostle Paul empowers him with a tremendous responsibility. Paul reminds him that he (Timothy) is in the presence of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Furthermore, Paul shares that Jesus is the one who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom. This is an extremely powerful moment because Timothy must understand and embrace the Blessing of a Holy Calling.

Perhaps Paul, through revelation, experiences, and knowledge of other disciples' hardships, knew that there would be pain, tribulation, trials, hardships, obstacles, hard days, weary days, and a host of other ills to endure. You see after the disciples taught about the Lord Jesus; the religious leaders demanded that they stop. You see, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. God was working a miracle because many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about 5,000. (Acts 4:1-4)

Peter shared with the Council, "You can't find Salvation in anybody else." For there is no other name under Heaven given to mankind by which we

must be saved.” Good God ALMIGHTY... Well, when they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished, and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. The council couldn't say anything, because they could see the Lord's wonder working power evident in the man standing with Peter and John, who had just been healed. So, they said to Peter and John, give us some time to talk amongst ourselves, and inquired among each other... “What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in the name of Jesus.” What do you think the council did? Well, they called them in again and commanded Peter and John not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. Then Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to Him? You be the judge. (Get Back, Shackle Whack, Give a Dog a Bone). If you would allow me to say it in this vernacular, *“Peter and John were saying obedience is better than sacrifice. We're going to obey God. We have a Holy Calling on our lives to Preach the Word.” Hallelujah to the Lamb of God.*

Paul shares with Timothy that this is a Holy Calling. In fact, 2 Timothy 1:7-8 Paul tells Timothy that God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God. In other words, be of good courage for God is with you. Hang on in there for the Lord Jesus is with you. Timothy, you've got a Charge to Keep.

Paul says to Timothy, **Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. Timothy, preach the word... Don't stop. Don't get discouraged... Preach the Word. When you feel like it. Preach the Word...When you feel good. Preach the Word... When you don't feel so good. Be instant.... Hallelujah.

Remember it was JESUS, who hath saved us, and called us with a Holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and

grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:9-10) Preach the Word. Preach the Word. Just in case you didn't hear me, **"PREACH THE WORD."**

I believe Timothy may have replied in this fashion. Apostle Paul, so you're saying I have a Holy Calling. I agree. I believe that there is: "A charge to keep I have. A God to glorify, a never dying soul to save and fit it for the sky. To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill, O may it all my powers engage, to do my master's will. Arm me with jealous care, As in thy sight to live, And O' thy servant, Lord prepare, A strict account to give. Help... Somebody say HELP!!! Help me to watch and pray, And on thyself rely. Assured, if I my trust betray, I shall forever die." On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand, All Other Ground is Sinking Sand."

A Charge to Keep I Have. A Charge to Keep You Have. Tell somebody about Jesus. Tell somebody your story. Tell somebody about how God saved you through His son Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9-11 says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. Preach the Word. Preach the Word. Preach the Word. Amen.