

Rockford Reformed Church
Sermon Series - "Time For Change" #9
2 Timothy 4:1-5 - "Preach the Word"
3/3/19 – Pastor Tim Meendering

Questions for family/small group discussions:

1. When has preaching most impacted you and why? What key elements are most often missing when you remain unchanged by preaching—both in the sermon/preacher and in your own heart?
2. What has God done and what is he still doing through the power of his Word spoken?
3. What does 1 Cor. 1:17-18 say about God's design and power as it relates to preaching the gospel?

A. Preaching should include three characteristics:

1. **With _____.**
What are some reasons that Paul would say that we are to be ready or preach with urgency?
2. **With _____ and _____.**
What are some recent examples of when you were corrected or rebuked by the Word and what was your response? What are some reasons why we might be tempted to back down from this important aspect of proclaiming the Word?
3. **With _____ and careful _____.**
What is an example of where your/our proclaiming the Word must be with patience and careful instruction?

B. Why are we to preach/proclaim in these ways?

1. We naturally choose the wrong spiritual _____.

What do 2 Tim 4:3, 3:1, and 1 Tim. 4:1-2 say about our ability to choose our spiritual food wisely? What are some of the most common spiritual food alternatives that we might choose today?

Two symptoms of "Itching ears":

- a. Turning away from the _____.
 - b. You want to do _____ thing.
- What do 2 Tim. 4:3-4 and 3:2-4 say about what people will often choose apart from love and obedience to God's Word?

2. It is worth the _____.

What do Rom. 8:18 and 2 Cor. 4:17 say about why we can be courageous and willing to suffer? What do we often focus on instead so that we are driven by fear and comfort?

3. You will stand before _____ as your _____.

When you think about the moment described in 2 Tim. 4:1, what will you present to Jesus when he comes again? Who could you list as having been impacted by your love, service and words of correction, rebuke and encouragement (also see 1 Thes. 2:19-20)?

Additional resources to consider:

- *Creature of the Word: The Jesus-Centered Church*, by Matt Chandler, Josh Patterson, Eric Geiger.
- *Taking God at His Word: Why the Bible is Knowable, Necessary and Enough, and What That Means for You and Me*, by Kevin DeYoung.