

Exposit Truth

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. — 2 Timothy 4:1-2

Regular expository preaching of the Bible is the staple diet of a healthy church.
— Alistair Begg

Doctrine

These verses (2 Timothy 4:1-2) initiate the last chapter of Paul's death row epistle. Sensing he was about to die, this aging apostle issues one final charge to preach the Word. He does not endorse a clever program of church growth strategies; nor does he encourage Timothy to faithfully exegete the surrounding culture. Rather, he points the church back to its source of truth: The Word of God. He says to be ready at all times and to reprove, rebuke, and exhort from God's Word... whether it is popular or not. How should we do this? With complete patience and teaching.

Philosophy

Expository preaching is the explanation, explication, and elucidation of God's message in Scripture. It begins and ends with the Word of God. The Spirit did not communicate one message with multiple interpretations in mind. Rather, He has provided clear instruction for all things pertaining to life and godliness. As heralds of that instruction, it is our responsibility to remain as true to the text as possible. After all, we have been charged to preach the Word. Therefore, expository preaching is the greatest agency for communicating God's truth.

The call to broadcast this inerrant truth is firmly grounded in the witness of Christ Himself (v1). Representation of Christ (in the sight of Christ) through the proclamation of His Word should never be treated lightly. It is equally important for the preacher to not lose sight of the manner provided in verse 2: with complete patience and teaching. In one sense, no man can live up to the glories contained in Scripture. Yet we are called to preach it faithfully. In his masterwork, *Preaching and Preachers*, the good doctor writes:

I can forgive a man for a bad sermon, I can forgive the preacher almost anything if he gives me a sense of God, if he gives me something for my soul, if he gives me the sense that, though he is inadequate himself, he is handling something which is very great and very glorious, if he gives me some dim glimpse of the majesty and the glory of God, the love of Christ my Saviour, and the magnificence of the Gospel. If he does that I am his debtor, and I am profoundly grateful to him. — Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Paul does not give Timothy an excuse for carelessly handling God's Word, but he does provide an example and call to its patient instruction. Likewise, we should preach the whole Word at all times with complete care.