**Ordination Charge to a Pastor**

What is the “charge to a pastor”? Webster’s dictionary has seven definitions for “**charge**” several with sub-headings. The one relevant to us has to do with an obligation or requirement. All five verbs are aorist active imperatives.

 1 : the action of obligating oneself to a course of action (as by a promise or vow)

 2 a : something (as a formal contract, a promise, or the demands of conscience or custom) that obligates one to a course of action

 Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 1996).

The Scriptures address this obligation in ***2 Timothy 4:1-5***

***2 Timothy 4:1 I solemnly 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:***

***Charge,*** DIAMARTUROMAI (**διαμαρτύρομαι**), v. pmi; **to exhort with authority** in matters of extraordinary importance; freq. w. ref. to higher powers and/or suggestion of peril, solemnly urge, **exhort, warn**. BDAG William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 233.

The apostle Paul goes to the highest authority in the universe to support his charge to Timothy which is GTF and JC.

There are five commands in verse 2.

**1) *Preach*** (v. aam) ***the word*** [the Pastor’s job]***; be ready*** (v. aam) ***in season and out of season; reprove,*** (v. aam)  ***rebuke,*** (v. aam)  ***exhort*** (v. aam)***, with great patience and instruction.***

The **first** and most important is to ***preach*** *the word.* (**κηρύσσω**) to make public declarations; proclaim aloud.

**2)** The **second** is, ***be ready*** (**ἐφίστημι**), to be present in readiness to discharge a task.

This presupposes great preparation and being willing and diligent to preach the word (*in season and out of season);* irregardless of what the spiritual climate may be.

It doesn’t matter whether people are receptive or hostile to God’s word or how many or how few hearers there are, the pastor’s duty to teach, remains the same. Pastors should have a compulsion inside of them to preach the word.

**3**) The **third** is ***reprove*** (**ἐλέγχω**)**,** to express strong disapproval of someone’s action; reprove; correct.

This is not something that pastors look forward to doing and can be especially difficult for young or new pastors but they must remember that the Lord requires it of them.

**4)** The **fourth** is ***rebuke*** (**ἐπιτιμάω**)**;** to rebuke, reprove, censure, speak seriously, or warn. This word seems to be a bit stronger and more serious than the Greek word for reprove.

**5)** The fifth is ***exhort*** (**παρακαλέω**)**;** to urge strongly, appeal to, urge, exhort, or encourage.

***“with great*** (**all**) ***patience and instruction.”***

***Patience*** (****n. dsf; longsuffering, patience, endurance, maintaining tranquility, keeping ones temper under provocation

Note, a pastor does not need patience, he needs ***great***patience.

***Instruction*** (**διδαχή**), the activity of teaching; to instruct.

The life of a pastor is made up primarily of studying and teaching.

***2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,***

That time has come, it’s here! Most modern pulpits have become a sounding board that is merely saying back to the people what they want to hear. Few go to church to receive sound teaching of the Word, *some go to church to close their eyes and others to eye the clothes*.

Our society has an insatiable lust for **entertainment** so when people go to church, they expect to be entertained. Very few have been trained to concentrate and are unable to focus on exegetical teaching.

There is a real temptation for a pastor to succumb to the desire of his congregation to have their ears tickled. His congregation would certainly increase in numbers and he would become very popular.

**PP** Pastor Poem

There is more than an abundance of “pastors” who are willing and eager to tickle ears but very few who remain faithful to their calling of studying and teaching sound doctrine.

***2 Timothy 4:4 …and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.***

When a congregation is successful in acquiring an **ear tickling** teacher, they start believing lies and there is certainly an abundance of lies that people are eager to believe.

***2 Timothy 4:5 But you, be sober in all things,* endure hardship**, ***do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.***

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There are four commands to pastors in this verse.

***Be sober in all things*** (**νήφω)** v. pai**;** to **have self-control**,to **stay calm**,to **behave with restraint** and **moderation**.

***Endure hardship*** (**κακοπαθέω**), v. aam; to **bear hardship patiently** **without complaint**. It does no good to complain. You can celebrate even during hardship.

***Do the work*** (ποιέω), v. aam; *of* ***an evangelist*** to proclaim the gospel; to announce good news. That requires PREPARATION. Lots and lots of preparation.

***Fulfill your ministry,* (πληροφορέω**), v. aam; **Do your job!** The last thing Paul says to end his charge and a fitting admonition. Be faithful to **Study and Teach** in order to prepare your flock for spiritual warfare.