

Second Timothy

Paul's Last Words

Keep Your Head

In All Situations

II Timothy 3:4:1-8

Lesson Ten

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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Keep Your Head—II Timothy 4:1-8

This is a charge to Timothy. It is given with God the Father and Christ Jesus the Son as witnesses. He said that not only are they witnesses, but that Jesus will be the judge when all people are finally judged for their actions on earth. Read II Timothy 4:1-8.

He told Timothy to be ready...be prepared at all times to “preach the Word.” He gives us an idea as to what he meant when he said to preach. First, he said to correct. Paul had warned Timothy in both letters to him that there were those who would teach people the wrong beliefs. In I Timothy 1:3, Paul reminded Timothy that he had left Timothy in Ephesus to demand that certain men not teach false doctrines. Good preaching should point out bad beliefs.

Second, he said that Timothy should rebuke. He had said in II Timothy 2:25 that those who oppose the Lord's servant should be gently instructed “in the hope that they will come to their senses.” Rebuke isn't necessarily harsh...it is much better received from an humble heart.

Third, Paul told Timothy that preaching was a way to encourage. Paul was a master at encouragement. The beginning of this letter is a good pattern. Read II Timothy 1:4-9. All preachers should practice the art of encouragement.

And, Paul tells Timothy that this preaching should be done with “great patience” and “careful instruction.” Anyone who follows God's call to preaching the Gospel, should do so knowing that it takes much persistence and the kind of teaching that everyone can understand. A preacher must be very sure of his message and able to put it in terms that all can understand.

Then Paul warns Timothy that there will be those who will not want to hear the true message of Jesus. They will want to hear things that make them feel better. The teachers will do this by tickling their ears. In other words, what they will be hearing will make them feel good. The teachers of the future, according to Paul, would not tell it like it is. They would change the truth to make it more appealing to folks. Some have described their teachings as “spiritual junk food.”

In those days there were a lot of teachers who wandered around the country offering to teach people for a fee. They were aware that what they were teaching was wrong, but they could make money doing it, and if the students were gullible enough to pay them, it was OK.

Then, Paul told Timothy that he had to keep his head. He must remain steady so that those who listened to his teaching would not be like the others. He was to be an evangelist. That

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meant that he was to keep on telling the Good News. Evangelists were people who told the story of Jesus. That was Timothy's calling.

As we have said, this letter was written near the end of Paul's life. He knew the end was near. We don't know how he knew, but he seems to have known. He makes two statements. He said first, "I am already being poured out like a drink offering." (Verse 6) At the end of the meal in the Roman homes of the day, someone would pour out some wine to the gods. Paul was ready to be offered to God. He was laying down his life, just as Jesus had done. Second, he said that the time for his departure had come. The word Paul used which we translate "departure," was used for untying the ropes that hold the boat to the dock. He was ready to set sail for his Heavenly home.

Again, Paul draws pictures for us. He said he had fought the good fight...he had not surrendered. He had finished the race. He kept going until the finish line. He said that he had kept the faith. When the Olympic games were played in Paul's day, the competitors had to take an oath that they had done no less than ten months of training, and that they would not trick anyone or break any rule in winning the race. Paul was saying that he had carried out his mission for God according to the rules.

Then, continuing his pictures, Paul said that a crown was waiting for him. When an athlete was given a crown for finishing first, it was the highest honor...much like the Gold medal given in the Olympic Games of our day. It was worn with pride.

Where the Olympic crown was awarded by humans, and faded pretty quickly, Paul's crown would be awarded by God Himself. He was looking forward to God saying, "Well done."

Now, please see the last words as a promise. Paul said that the crown was not just for him only, but for everyone who long's for Christ's appearing. Simply put, those who look forward to being with Jesus, can count on a crown just like Paul's.

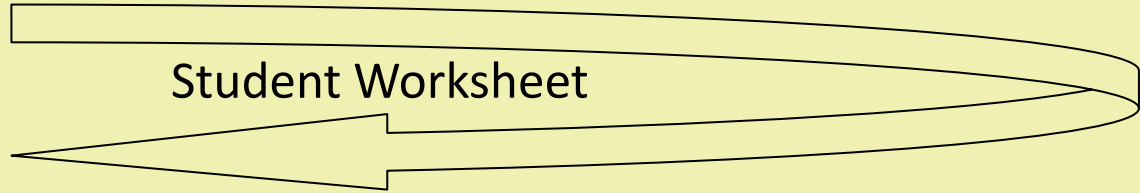
*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Scripture Memory: "But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharging all the duties of your ministry." II Timothy 4:5

Lesson Goal: To remind students that they have a job to do as an evangelist.

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>What were the three things that Paul said he meant when he said to preach?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

>With what two things did Paul tell Timothy that this preaching should be done?

- 1.
- 2.

>What do evangelists do?

>What pictures did Paul draw about the end of his life?

>Those who look forward to being with _____, can count on a _____ just like Paul's.

Scripture Memory: "But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharging all the duties of your ministry." II Timothy 4:5

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.