

CONTINUING IN CONFIDENCE

2 Timothy 4:1-8

INTRODUCTION: The Apostle Paul's earthly life was just about over and he gave a charge to the man the Lord had chosen to follow up his ministry: 2 Timothy 4:2. Paul knew already by his own experience as being one who would not put up with sound doctrine and seeing many men in his own ministry who would not put up with sound doctrine to know that was always going to be the case.

I. A TIME WILL COME!

The Apostle Peter also warned of scoffers who would be coming: 2 Peter 3:3-7. How are we to respond to the scoffers and the skeptics in our time: 2 Peter 3:15.

II. THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD!

So many today do not believe the Bible is God's Word. But if human experience teaches us anything it is this, the Word of God, the Bible is no ordinary book. There is no earthly reason that the sixty six books of the Bible, written over a period of 1500 years by forty different authors is so perfectly unified. All sixty six books speak with one authoritative voice. We are convinced that this Book alone in all the writings of mankind provides an accurate account of history and the only factual account of the future. Here is what the Bible says about itself: Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17. When we study the Bible we are taking in life, the very life of God and hearing the very Word of the Living God! When there is no way to discern the truth on this earth we can always find the truth in the living Word of God! 2 Timothy 4:1-2 was given to instruct young Timothy how to continue in confidence in a very troubling situation.

III. PLURALISM AND TOLERANCE IN OUR DAY!

Our culture is very much like that Timothy found himself in: 2 Timothy 4:3-4. Pluralism and tolerance are the watchword of our day but they are resulting in more turmoil, not more peace. Most people today chose to have their ears tickled rather than have their souls revived. Many years ago the prophet Amos warned the people of his day of where we are today: Amos 8:11. Today instead of our need to be conformed to the Word of God we attempt to conform the Word of God to our liking. Paul said to Timothy, preach the Word: 1 Corinthians 1:21-25; Isaiah 55:8-11. In this season of pluralism we need to be ready to preach God's Word: 2 Timothy 4:2. We must preach the Word of God with power and be bold with the message of God! We are to correct, rebuke and encourage our listeners! 2 Timothy 4:2. Our God has a future hope for His people and that will bring comfort to their hearts: Jeremiah 29:11-13; Romans 15:13; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. We need a sensitive word from our God: 2 Timothy 4:2; James 5:7-8; Psalm 119:105, 114; Psalm 119:114, 117.