

2 Timothy -- The Last Words of the Apostle Paul

First Presbyterian Church of Bakersfield
2026 Feb-Mar Sermon Series Study Guide

2 Timothy 4:1-8 (NIV)

1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Preach the Word

OPEN

- If you knew you had one year left to live, on what would you concentrate your time and energy?
- Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8.

STUDY

- Make a list, writing down what Timothy is charged to do in verse 2.
- In light of vs 3-4, why might these particular tasks be important for Timothy's work as pastor of the church in Ephesus?
- How do you see the the kinds of people Paul warns about in society today?
- Add to your vs 2 list the tasks Timothy is charged with in vs 5. How might this list help him (and believers today) respond in healthy ways to the kind of people mentioned in vs 3-4?
- In vs 6-8, what are the images Paul uses to describe his thoughts as he nears his "departure"? What do they say about his work and his focus as he approaches the end of his life?
- What more does his description of God (both in vs 1 and vs 8) reveal about where his confidence comes from?
- Using the task list you made for Timothy from vs 2 and 5 just as a starting point, what tasks might God be calling you to finish in order to share Paul's confidence and satisfaction as described in vs 6-8?

PRAY

- Commit your plans/tasks/work to the Lord, asking for the help of the Holy Spirit to accomplish these things and give you confidence in Him, the righteous Judge!