

Preach the word

Welcome and new coronavirus instructions.

Hymn MP 631 'Tell out my Soul'
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AI_q4uEJqS0

Scripture Reading Ps 40

Prayer / testimony

Reading 2 Tim 4:1-6

Hymn MP 37 As the deer pants for the water
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peZudXt9faU>

Sermon **"Preach the word!"**

Hymn MP 628 Tell me the old, old story

Closing prayer

Close -----

Listen to today's sermon by clicking on the link at www.knbc.org.

The audio file is [20_08_16.mp3](#) in the sermons directory



Welcome, pray

■ What would you say was the best job to have? My brother is a University professor. Pretty good eh, possibly the youngest one in England at the time. However, listen to this, his wife works in the marketing department of a - chocolate company. Beat that! Like that?

Top 10 - 1. Chocolate consultant, 2. Beer tasters, 3. Lego sculptor, 4. Island Caretaker, 5. Shark Tank Cleaner, 6. Professional Sleeper, 7 Submarine cook, 8 Aeroplane repossessor, 9 White hat hacker, 10 Bounty hunter.

Timothy is being given the best job in the world, well actually it could be the hardest, but certainly the most important job in the world.

■ Have you ever had to carry the news to someone? It could be good news – you've got the grades, or bad news, grandma's died.

Timothy is to be the bearer of news, to bring a message from the king.

■ A party had left Treetops hotel in the heart of the Kenya forest to a fishing lodge called Sagana, 20 miles away. It was there, beside a trout stream in the foothills of Mount Kenya, that Prince Philip broke the news

■ What news? Standing on a small footbridge he told young Princess Elizabeth the news of her father's death. Kings George VI had died the of lung cancer at the age of 60. He had died the night before - 26 Feb 1952

Timothy is charged with a great task, He is told to Preach God's word.

God is a God who hears, he sees, he feels, he knows, he acts and he speaks, God is a God who speaks.

God doesn't speak from the clouds, you won't hear Him audibly, nor will he speak to your feelings. He speaks through his word. This word is now written down (Bible) and it come to us through preachers. That is God's ordained way today. How can you hear unless His word is brought to you?

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? Ro 10:14-15

So the person who brings God's word must be sent by God. God says in Jeremiah about false prophets or preachers they are **prophesying in my name:** but **I did not send them,** Jer 14:15 see also Jer 23

So the scene this morning opens in a courtroom, it is the courtroom of heaven, the courtroom of the universe. It doesn't get any higher than that!
“**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:** Wow that must be important! It is before the great **Judge of the living and the dead**, He's watching, and he will call me to account one day. It's serious!

Paul had said the same in his first letter: **In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus,, I charge you, to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,** 1Ti 6:13-14

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus. They are together in the throne room of the universe and it is here that everything is planned and decided.

In eternity past, before time began, and before God created this world, God the father, and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in their loving union purposed a way to save people like you and I to be His forever in the new perfect world he would make. Before even he had made this world, and mankind had sinned and suffering and death had entered there was a plan. The father would send his Son into this world on a rescue mission - and the Son would gladly come. He would both preach the Kingdom of God and then to suffer and die to bring men and women into it.

Jesus says in Psalm 40: "**Here I am, I have come—it is written about me in the scroll. I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.**" Ps 40:7-8 and Hebrews 10:7,9

In the eternal counsel of the godhead **the decree of the LORD** is made, - God the father says "**You are my Son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.**" Ps 2:7-8

As Jesus came into this world the eternal **word** of God **became flesh** calling people from every nation in God's world, God's call to you and I

He showed his credentials in his healing of the sick and when people came looking for him **Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so that I can preach there also. That is why I have come."** Mt 1:38

So Jesus came to preach. As has been said of all the people God could have sent into the world he sent a preacher - because that is what we most need. For it is preaching God's word that opens the door to the Kingdom of God. All the prophets were called to speak of God, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc

2a

After Christ the apostles were chosen, James, John, Peter, and Paul was God's chosen instrument to preach Christ to the lost. Now Timothy – and now all of God's people - You and I - are all entrusted with this great task. Have you have called on the Lord Jesus? - Do you profess Christ? Then He has called you to a new life's work, one great task. Only one thing matters, what God has told you to do, nothing else. – you will have to account for it.

✚ **Every Christian has a great charge - before the great Judge.**

Those hobbies that time given to leisure pursuits, that collection you so love. It is a great distraction from the main thing. All that will one day go.

■ **Scanning old family photos from the albums should I give up hours and hours to that? For now, it is no. It will distract me from the main thing**

Do you know God's call? If so are you obedient to God's Call?

So there's the call - the charge - the task – and now the tool: God's word

Tool

Preach the Word; x2 So it is always the “word” because it is God's word. That is how he works, through his word **And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.**" Ge 1:3

God who is life - breathes life into this world. He breathes life through his word. This is because God's word is **living and active**. These words are described as ‘**living words**’ passed on to us, life giving words Acts 7

In Ez 37 The dry bones **can these bones live?** The answer is NO. But Ezekiel is told to speak to the bones, in other words preach to them and as he does so bones come together and flesh appears - but they just lie there. Ex 37:7,8

They looked alive - but they were actually still dead. Apply

So Ezekiel is told to pray to God. God sends his spirit **“and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.”** Eze 37:10

So the spirit brings life. It is the same today - We are like those dry bones the word of God and the Spirit of God work together.

✚ **That is, God underwrites his word – he is active in it as it is preached**

Hear Dr. Luke explain what happened when Peter went to the house of the Italian Centurion Cornelius. **While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.** Ac 10:44

There was a gathering brought together by the Lord to hear His word. - At the same time the Lord was preparing the preacher.

2b

✚ So God brings the preacher to the hearer and the hearer to the preacher

He has done that this morning, you are here. God's word is here. What will happen? What did Peter tell them? He told them, I quote "the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ... how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." Ac 10:34-43

There it is, so it is here today, nothing has changed. Yet there are some in the room who are still to respond to Christ's call. Have you heard it too many times? Is your listening now impaired? Will today be the day that you respond?

In that gathering then many responded, they believed and they were baptised

Peter in explaining to others says "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them. Ac 11:15. and they were baptized with the Holy Spirit, Water Bapt

✚ Preaching is God's chosen method to save souls

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, Eph 1:13

God's word can speak into our deadness and bring life, Remember Jairus' D

He took her by the hand and said to her, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!" Mr 5:41

Then he went up and touched the coffin, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" Lu 7:14

To the dark tomb where Lazarus lay "Lazarus come forth" or "come out"

So these are these living words that bring to life and change a person forever

For the church

It doesn't stop there. God's word is the means of our growth as Christians.

- The mother of a SS girl said she nearly lost her life last year because she stopped eating

3a

So as a Christian we are told **Man does not live on bread alone...But on every** Have you found salvation? Have you come to the cross and repented of your sins? Have you found forgiveness? If so you are now adopted as His child, and you are to now grow to become Christ-like, Holy and set apart for Him.

✚ Thomas Manton said, "All reformations - changes in you and I - begin with the faithful preaching of the Gospel and sound doctrine."

Timothy is a church leader and knows for Christians to become mature we need to constantly apply God's word - rub it in - as Jesus said in his prayer to the father: **Sanctify** (make them holy) **by the truth; your word is truth.** Joh 17:17

✚ M. Henry said, "God's design for instructing His people and reforming them by His word is through the faithful preaching of the Gospel."

So Timothy is told in no uncertain terms: **Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.**

There is a lot there - simply put the word of God is multi-use,

- God's word is like a tool a Swiss army knife, Open up and full of different attachments for different jobs – some just like upbeat +ve messages

It **corrects** - Corrects error, wrong thinking produces wrong actions

- Doing the tracking making sure the car steering is straight.

It **rebukes** - its a challenge to my will, what I want, preaching shine Christ's penetrating torch, His gaze, his light, into my dark heart.

I was rebuked in my attitude the other day, and I saw how much I was like those people who came to Jeremiah "Do you have a word from the Lord"

But they had no intention of obeying it. How much do I when I am told to stop wasteful pursuits. There's a constant battle going on inside.

It **encourages** - We need encouragement to stand firm against the world

Ro 15:4 **For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.**

That is why we must not marginalise the bringing of God's word in a service, what % of your service is The reading of God's word? And the preaching of God's word?

3b

✚ Martin Luther said, “Strong Biblical sermons make for wise and godly Christians, just as good and strong bricks make for sturdy buildings.”

Let us help each other be strong in Christ. Like that building well founded, unmoved.

God’s word needs to be rubbed in. To preach means to apply pressure, the word is full of imperative, not just teach, not just inform the mind and leave it there - like a lecture, teaching is not preaching - for preaching persuades, it impresses something upon the will – “*leave that sin behind, that selfishness, that jealousy, that hateful thought, that lustful thought*” There’s something important to be done.

Preaching should change things yet it’s not our persuasion, but God’s power

Preaching is Christ, it is Him who he is, his Holy life, his death his resurrection.

To preach the word is to preach Christ, the risen Christ with all that that means for Christ is the power of God and through the foolishness of what is preached he will call people to himself.

Jesus’ continued call is **come to me, believe in me, trust in me, follow me...**

How forceful would you be to someone if Jesus was next to you? If you had a room full of people and Jesus was next to you, what would you say to them how much would you try to convince those before you about the merits of Christ and their urgent need of him?

- Those who carry God’s word are like those carrying medicine, healing balm.
- Those who carry God’s word are like those carrying the defibrillator to the man lying on the road with a heart attack.
- Those who carry God’s word are like those holding up the one effective vaccine.

Look at it the other way if I was to remove [the fire exit signs](#) here

Hide God’s word and you are hiding the fire exit, obscure the way, send someone in the wrong direction.

Paul is going “ **For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure.**” (2Ti 4:6)

Paul has left the deposit, Paul the apostles is going, all the apostles will soon be gone.

The apostles don’t live on with more and more revelation still coming, with modern day apostles who stand up with their new pronouncements. No

But they do live on, they live on in God’s word. What is the role of the apostle? To bring God’s word, so when you think of an “apostle” think – “God’s word”. Once they have done that we have it - and continue with it.

“Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.” 1Co 15:1,2

The apostles are gone. They have faithfully deposited the word of God. - Here it is in its entirety - and it is on your lap, - in your hand - and should be in your mouth.

Let’s end up where we started back in the courtroom. That is where all the important decisions are made, that is where you and I will go when we depart this world... And most of us sooner than we think.

What has God given you to do before you leave? Yes it’s kingdom work, the work of God’s word in this world. And he has entrusted it to you, - no-one else will bring it but Christians, You.

- The train ride ‘clickety click’, ‘clickety click’ not now the same, looking back down to line, it’s gone it will never come back, the train presses on and on relentlessly on to eternity, it never slows, never stops.

Life here is short, there is only one thing that is important, nothing else really matters, we are to do His will. That’s the call. To be Gospel carriers, Good News carriers.

Timothy had to continue to preach the truth against the backdrop of opposition **3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine.** Sermon for another day.

✚ Matthew Henry said: “We preach Jesus Christ as Lord; for God has prepared Him a throne in the heavens; and if we would have any benefit by that, we must prepare Him a throne in our hearts, and be willing and glad that He should sit and rule upon that throne.” _____END