

Advice for Preachers

(2 Timothy 4:1-5)

- Introduction:
1. When I started preaching, and while I preached, I had a tremendous advantage over some men because I had a Dad who had 60 plus years of experience to share with me.
 2. To my knowledge, my Dad never told me to preach - instead, he taught me the need to preach.
 3. Some of you may not have had the benefit of good advice or experience, so while you're here, soak it up. You'll hear a lot of it. And it will serve you well.

I. Preach the Word with Longsuffering

- A. (2 Timothy 4:1-5).
- B. Not all truth is grasped and embraced immediately
 1. (Acts 2:38-39) Preached that the Gentiles were included.
 2. (Acts 10:34-35) Years later, the "light comes on" that Gentiles were included.
- C. Not all who are mistaken are rebellious God-Haters.
 1. (Acts 23:1) Paul lived in all good conscience.
 2. (Acts 18:24-26) Apollos was a good man, but mistaken.
- D. All truth doesn't have to be immediately imparted (John 16:12-14).
- E. Think of the money that is wasted as moving trucks pass each other on the highway every Summer!
 1. If you don't practice "longsuffering," you might as keep your belongings in boxes.
 2. How much money is wasted by churches "shuffling" preachers around when a little "longsuffering" could allow that money be spent of mission work?

II. Love Peace More than Conflict

- A. After sharpening your sword for two years, you'll want to "try it out." - I get it, I've been there myself.
- B. But through the years, I've learned to love peace more than conflict.
 1. That doesn't mean I don't believe in conflict, that I shy away from conflict, or that I am soft on error.
 2. What it means is that I prefer the pursue diplomacy over "fisticuffs".
- B. (1 Corinthians 9:26) - If we throw punches at everything we don't like, we'll be spent - (for those too young to remember, look up Muhammad Ali's "rope-a-dope.").
- C. (Matthew 5:9) - Not just a "peace-keeper," but a "peacemaker."
- D. (Psalm 133:1) - Unity is both, good and pleasant.
- E. Be careful on social media; watch your speech; don't use Jesus as an excuse to be mean-spirited and unkind.

- Conclusion:
1. I believe these two pieces of advice that were given to me by my Dad, are worth passing along to you as well.
 2. These principles have served me well, and have helped me to remain balanced, and I believe they will do the same for you.