

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

October 2014

PAUL'S LAST WORDS: CHARGE!

INTRODUCTION

When was the last time someone gave you a charge? What did they say to you?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8

1. In whose presence did Paul give this charge to Timothy? Why?
2. What charge did Moses give to Joshua Deuteronomy 31:7, 8 & 23; David to Solomon? 1 Kings 2:1-4; 1 Chronicles 28:8-1
3. In what areas did Paul charge Timothy? What do these "charges" have in common?
4. What is meant by "Preach the Word?" Col 4:3
5. Why is it important to 'be prepared in and out of season'? 1 Peter 3:15
6. We are also to correct, rebuke and encourage with patience and careful instruction. Why?
7. What examples can you give where people are in violation of vv. 3 & 4? Does it happen among believers in Christ? How?
8. What are myths and how should we respond to them? Titus 1:13-16 & 2 Timothy 3:16-17
9. What are the four imperatives Paul tells Timothy in verse 5?
10. What does it mean to "do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry?"
11. What confidence does Paul demonstrate in vv. 6-7? Why?
Note: v. 6 Roman meals ended with a "drink offering". A cup of wine was poured out (sacrificed) to the gods. The term Paul uses for "departure" is similar to unyoking an animal after a day of hard work. Death to Paul was rest from toil.
12. The charge that Paul gives to Timothy could lead to death. What incentive does Paul give to Timothy to fulfill this charge? How might it apply to us?

APPLICATION

What are some of the duties (the charge) that God given to you? How are you discharging those duties?

That is magnificent---especially when you remember its setting. Here is the apostle in this tiny little cell, cramped and cold, in semi-darkness writing by the light of a sputtering lamp. He knows that his fate is sealed. He has already appeared once before Nero, that monstrous wretch of an emperor and now he must appear before him once more, and he knows what the result will be this time. He will be taken outside the city wall and with a flash of the sword, his head will roll in the dust, and that will be the end. Ray Stedman

In this moment Paul is turning from the verdict of men to the verdict of God. He knew that in a very short time he would stand before the Roman judgment seat and that his trial could have only one end. He knew what Nero's verdict would be, but he also knew what God's verdict would be. The man whose life is dedicated to Christ is indifferent to the verdict of men. He cares not if they condemn him so long as he hears his Master's "Well done!"¹

¹ Barclay, W. (Ed.). (1975). *The letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon* (pp. 211–212). Philadelphia: Westminster John Knox Press.