

FAITH AND PREACHING

2 Timothy 4:1-5 (p. 1855)

September 9, 2018

*I give you this charge: Preach the Word;
be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke,
and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.
2 Timothy 4:2*

The intersection of faith and preaching

*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of [or, “fully believed”]
because you know from whom you learned it
2 Timothy 3:14 (see Belgic Confession, Articles 28, 29)*

The job description of a herald

*In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus . . . I give you this charge: Preach the Word;
be prepared . . . correct . . . rebuke . . . encourage
2 Timothy 4:1-2*

Getting the Word right

*All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,
so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Anti-preaching

*For a time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine
They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.*
2 Timothy 4:3-4

Finishing the job

*But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist,
discharge all the duties of your ministry.*
2 Timothy 4:5

1) _____ will be hard

2) _____ will matter even more

For further study of 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Start with the Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 21, a discussion of the "holy catholic church." The Scripture passages in these catechism questions will keep you busy all week! Available at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/heidelberg-catechism>

Belgic Confession, Articles 28-29, available online at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/belgic-confession>

Calvin Seminary's *Forum* which features church discipline in its Summer 2018 edition (Volume 26, Number 1). It isn't online yet (<http://www.calvinseminary.edu/ministry-connections/publications/forum-archive/>), but it is available at church!

Bob Deffinbaugh's introduction to 2 Timothy at <https://bible.org/seriespage/51-2-timothy-perseverance-difficult-days>

Gordon Smith's lecture at <https://www.regentaudio.com/products/catechesis-for-a-secular-age-the-wisdom-of-1-peter>

Bob Utely's commentary of 2 Timothy at <http://www.freebiblecommentary.org/pdf/VOL09.pdf>

Alexander Maclaren's commentary at https://biblehub.com/commentaries/maclaren/2_timothy/4.htm

John Piper's sermons on 2 Timothy at <https://www.desiringgod.org/scripture/2-timothy/4/messages>

Belgic Confession, Article 29: The Marks of the True Church

We believe that we ought to discern diligently and very carefully, by the Word of God, what is the true church—for all sects in the world today claim for themselves the name of “the church”

The true church can be recognized if it has the following marks:

- The church engages in the pure preaching of the gospel;
- it makes use of the pure administration of the sacraments as Christ instituted them;
- it practices church discipline for correcting faults.

In short, it governs itself according to the pure Word of God, rejecting all things contrary to it and holding Jesus Christ as the only Head.

By these marks one can be assured of recognizing the true church—and no one ought to be separated from it.

As for those who can belong to the church, we can recognize them by the distinguishing marks of Christians: namely by faith, and by their fleeing from sin and pursuing righteousness, once they have received the one and only Savior, Jesus Christ.

They love the true God and their neighbors, without turning to the right or left, and they crucify the flesh and its works.

Though great weakness remains in them, they fight against it by the Spirit all the days of their lives, appealing constantly to the blood, suffering, death, and obedience of the Lord Jesus, in whom they have forgiveness of their sins, through faith in him.

As for the false church, it assigns more authority to itself and its ordinances than to the Word of God; it does not want to subject itself to the yoke of Christ; it does not administer the sacraments as Christ commanded in his Word; it rather adds to them or subtracts from them as it pleases; it bases itself on humans, more than on Jesus Christ; it persecutes those who live holy lives according to the Word of God and who rebuke it for its faults, greed, and idolatry.

These two churches are easy to recognize and thus to distinguish from each other.