

**NEWS AND VIEWS**  
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full  
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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*I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the Word, be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.*

*(2 Timothy 4:1-2)*

Being *called to preach* is a phrase people in church world have understood when someone surrenders their life to the ministry. It usually signifies someone becoming a pastor or an evangelist. But aren't we all *called to preach*? If you have ever been led by God to share His word with someone who has rejected your intrusion, you know how painful that can be. Sometimes God's word will divide families and friends, and that can be very uncomfortable. We don't want to feel responsible for that. But the division that comes after injecting God's Word into a wicked world is exactly what Jesus said would happen. So we can surely trust God with the results of preaching His word.

God's word is designed to accomplish His purpose. That knowledge is incredibly liberating. But we won't always be popular delivering the good news of a good God. Now who among us doesn't want to be highly thought of by others? But when our need to secure the approval of men is greater than the desire to serve and please God, it's time for a spiritual heart examination. Consider the following big idea:

**WE ARE CHARGED TO PREACH THE WORD TO ACHIEVE GOD'S PURPOSES.**

**I. WE ARE CHARGED TO PREACH INTENTIONALLY, NOT ACCIDENTALLY.** God's Word should be studied carefully, so we will be ready with a ready word. God never does anything aimlessly. He has purpose in his plan. His word is never wasted. It goes out and does not return without accomplishing its purpose.

**II. WE ARE CHARGED TO PREACH INSTANTLY, NOT OCCASIONALLY.** God's Word should be ready to be delivered at a moment's notice. Biblically described as a double-edged sword, in today's culture the Word should be like a loaded gun! If we have to wait to load our weapon before it is discharged, the opportune moment may pass.

**III. WE ARE CHARGED TO PREACH GOD'S WORD, REGARDLESS OF ITS OBVIOUS POLITICAL INCORRECTNESS.**

*In season or out* is an obvious reference to how socially fashionable it is to preach the word...or not. Prophets through the ages have preached when humanity was oblivious and none seemed to care but God. God cares that the Word goes forth into the cesspool of sinful humanity. So how will they hear without a preacher? The Lord doesn't need the approval of the media culture, even so-called social media. But He does care about life. And He commands His people to preach an unpopular word. Confrontation of a holy God's word with the condition of sinful man is always uncomfortable, but appropriate and timely.

**IV. WE ARE CHARGED TO PREACH TO ACHIEVE GOD'S PURPOSES.**

To correct and encourage is the purpose of preaching God's word. Although the word cannot correct unless applied, or will not encourage if not believed, that is not our responsibility. We are only *charged to preach*. Transformation occurs when people are responsive to the teaching of the Holy Spirit. We rightly preach out of a desire to serve God, not to attract a *following*, or change men into *our* image. The results of preaching the word are not up to us. God is calling men to holiness through the preaching of His word. The results are up to God. We can trust God with His call. So answer His call and preach His Word. Then watch God go to work! The first one He will change is the preacher! We all could use a little change...I'm just sayin'.

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam