

Preach Better Conference

2 Timothy 4:1-2

October 10, 2026

* Good morning and welcome to the Preach Better conference and also welcome to B.C. Super glad you are here.

- Do you remember the first sermon you ever preached? Good? Gotten better?
(Grand Prairie, TX flea market workers)
(Arlington, P.M. service -

* All of us want to get better, can get better, matters a lot!

- Sermon/breakout session combined
- 2 Timothy 4

* A.P. writes his last epistle to his young, somewhat fearful and people pleaser protege Timothy who pastors the relatively difficult church at Ephesus.

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* Your preaching is very important

v.1

¹ I 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:

* ‘Timothy, I know you’re naturally fearful, Father wounds, difficult people at your church who have the ministry of discouragement – but don’t forget what hangs in the balance!’

- Not just giving him advice or a pep talk, he’s reminding Timothy of WHO he actually works for. “I charge you” is very strong, very intense (ill. – **in facemask**)
- 4 witnesses: the presence of God, Christ Jesus the Judge, His appearing, His kingdom. You only charge somebody like that if Jesus is actually alive, actually coming back, actually bringing a Kingdom. If the tomb is still occupied, then preaching is just a silly hobby for religious people. But since the tomb is empty it’s the most important assignment on planet earth!

* I know preaching every Sunday is hard (some Wed, Sun PM). ‘**Like giving birth on Sunday and finding out pregnant on Monday**’

- “**my One more** (friend, sister, co-worker) **coming with me to church next Sunday – so make the sermon a good one.**”

- Other church ministries are important, but a church rarely if ever rises above the preaching (counseling, small gr, etc.)
- **DMLJ – ‘as preaching** (in London) **decreased, counseling inc.** (counsel us? **Sit under my preaching for 13 weeks first....)**
- **ill. – Anne Wilson’s ‘Sunday sermon’ lyrics**
- God had one Son and He was a preacher, when send someone ahead of His Son was a preacher (JB), when does the church start? Acts 2 after Peter preaches.

* **What you preach is very important**

-v.2

² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

- **Preach** (Kerusso) – to herald, to publicly proclaim (used 112x in Scripture). Picture of a royal herald announcing a King’s decree – not his own opinion.
- **The Word** – not a church if not preaching the Word. Why? – 2 Tim 3:16 – “all Scripture is breathed out by God” (theos presustos). 3 things God breathed on: Adam...., the resurrected Christ breathes on the disciples, and Bible.

(- 66 books → all about Jesus. O.T. concealed, N.T. revealed.) Explain → **ill.** → apply verse by verse.

* **“Be ready”**

- All know what its like to have a crazy week, emergency, etc. – and not be as ready as want. Generally, **be** ready.

- **ill. – SH w/ Mr Tebow at crusade in the Philippines.**

- Normally, if not, preaching to preachers about preaching – I’d go diff. application....

① **Start preparing as soon as possible.**

- Read and reread the text (**ill. Crockpot**)
- Great help to plan out your preaching cal.
- Illustrations come easier
 - Personal are good (maybe wife look good, kids look above par, you struggle)
- Helps you preach from overflow (passion, eye contact)

② **Show it to them in the text**

- Want to model for them how to study the Bible. (Then, now, me) (What, so what, now what).

③ Study the text before you see what other people say about the text.

- Learn from almost everybody, only have few heroes.

④ Thread the gospel throughout every sermon

- Not just **diving board, it's the pool**
- Epistles primarily to Christians about gospel
- Imperatives surrounded by indicatives
- Some texts more difficult to do than others (Ex. – Elijah after Carmel)

⑤ Have a one sentence summary

- Have however many subpoints, etc. – but this helps those become supporters of the text, gives clarity, prevents rabbit chasing
- If you could ask someone on Monday what was the main point of your message on Sunday, they should be able to come up with one word or short phrase.
“Repentance” or “what to do when you hit rock bottom.”

⑥ Bring application throughout your sermon

- God will apply the message to the people that you don't ☺, but you are His mouthpiece and He wants His Word applied (“doers of the word”). Starting early helps because God applies it to you thru the week (**Ex**)

- What it means, so what, now what (response)

- Response culture at BC – come, sing, bring.
 - **iii. – prayer pads at front**

*Don't just do at end of sermon, throughout
- even helpful in outline to be applicational.

⑦ Your preaching flows out of your walk with God

- Esp. if somewhere for a long time.
- Feed your own soul, daily repentance, prayer
- Also, saturate sermon prep in prayer (you, church)

* Reprove/rebuke → reprimand, Stop it! People can take hard preaching if know loved (**kids never told no**) (note: window in culture where young people want to hear truth, not coddled.)

* Exhort – urge, encourage → not pep talk but pointing to God's goodness, grace (pours out grace to humble)

* Complete patience and teaching

- complete patience. You're a pastor leading sheep somewhere. You're a sheep too, patient with them way God is patient with you.

Concl. – God bless your ministry, let's continue to get better at our calling.

Prayer