

**RCMI L-Path Teaching**  
May 28, 2023

**TITLE: SOLID ORDINANCE**

TEXT: 2 Timothy 4: 1-5

Big Idea: Paul charges Timothy with what he would give to all of us as we have been called anointed heralds to proclaim the good news of God's Word to all people.

Introduction

- “Spiritual transformation into Christlikeness is not going to happen unless we act...What transforms us is the will to obey Jesus Christ.” – Dallas Willard
- *“The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed.” -Hudson Taylor.*
- Paul in 2 Timothy 4: 1-5 charges Timothy with what he would give to all of us as we have been called to proclaim the good news of God's Word.
- “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup>Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>3</sup>For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup>They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup>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 4:1-5, NIV

**BODY: SOLID ORDINANCE**

- A divine ordinance is a command, a charge, or a decree instituted by Jesus Christ for Christians to observe.
- “In view of His appearing and His kingdom, I give you this charge...”
- Christ is coming again. Given this, you better know your task, & be faithful to it!
- *“His Appearing!”* Gk: *“Epiphaneia”* was used to mean to put everything in order for the coming of the king or emperor.
- So Paul says to Timothy: “Do your work in such a way that all things will be ready whenever Jesus Christ appears.” *So, we should so order our lives so that at any moment we are ready for the coming of Jesus Christ.*

**I. The Decree To be Followed.** [vv. 1-2]

- Preach the Word! It implies knowing the word, rightly dividing it, & making it understandable & applicable to the lives of people.
- “Keep the word of God, and the word of God will keep you.” -Charles Spurgeon
- **WHEN?** – Be prepared in season and out of season...
  - Be prepared – be ready, take a stand, carry on, and stick to it.
  - In season and out - urgently and at all times.

- **HOW?** – Correct, rebuke, encourage. And do these with His Inspired Word, not your own!
  - **CORRECT:** Convict of wrong and sin by the searching light and power of the Scriptures. Correct error.
  - **REBUKE:** To rebuke someone is to criticize him or her sharply; “to reprimand and convict by exposing (sometimes publicly) a wrong.”
  - **ENCOURAGE:** Exhort. Give hope to the fainthearted by giving tender encouragement. No rebuke should ever be such that it drives a man to despair & takes the heart of hope out of him.
- **WITH GREAT PATIENCE AND CAREFUL INSTRUCTION.**
  - Meaning, with a spirit that never grows irritated, never despairs & never regards any man beyond salvation.
  - No one is capable of this task. - We need a life of profound dependence on Jesus Christ!

## II. The Danger To Be Avoided. [vv.3-4]

- Note the word “**they**” – Paul is warning “*professing*” believers. History repeats itself. You know Christendom is moving towards an appetite for error rather than truth.
- Itching ears – to tickle, to scratch, to feel an itching.
- They prefer sermons that *tickle* their ears instead of *cutting* their hearts. Excited if the topics are miracles and blessings but not holiness, missions, or evangelism.
- Ezek.33:30-32 Msg.
- Verse 4 tells us that “Itching ears” soon become “deaf ears”.
- Church, don’t fall victim to the latest crazes! [Have stability, be balanced]
- Remember, it is a revelation of Jesus Christ!

## III. The Devotion To Be Sustained. [v.5]

### A. Keep your head in all situations. It means to be watchful!

- Watch your work; Watch against the temptations of Satan by which you may be diverted; Watch over the souls of those who are committed to your charge.

### B. Endure hardship!

- Christianity will cost something! Pay the price without grumbling or regret!

### C. Do the work of an evangelist!

- The Christian is essentially the anointed herald of Good News!
- What is the greatest threat to the church? - "It is not communism, atheism, or materialism; the greatest threat is Christians trying to sneak into heaven incognito without ever sharing their faith."
- It’s all of us making the move from the **church** to the unchurched.
- We are all to do the work of an evangelist. It’s befriending a neighbor.
- When Jesus the Good Shepherd discovers that 1 sheep is lost, He leaves the 99 who are safe in the fold, & searches for the lost sheep until it is found.
- The lost here is not the lazy or immature Christian but the unbeliever who needs to hear the good news.

**D. Discharge all the duties of your ministry!** Discharge means to fulfill, to accomplish the purpose.

- Discharge all the duties of your ministry. This did not mean that Timothy was required to do the same things Paul was called to do.
- God has a specific purpose for each of His children.

I will be watchful in all things; I will endure hardships that come my way; I will do the work of an evangelist; I will fulfill my ministry!

**CHALLENGE:**

If God will post a Want Ad perhaps it would read like this: Anointed Heralds needed immediately. Ability is not as essential as availability plus an excellent training manual is available. Main qualifications: firm faith in Christ, a soft heart, and a thick skin. Work is not suitable for everyone. Must be able to withstand criticism from idle churchgoers who often insist on their rights while ignoring their responsibilities.

**DISCUSSION:**

1. Ask yourself: Am I doing the work of an evangelist right now? If not, how do I start?
2. How will you sustain your devotion in doing the work of an evangelist?
3. How will you watch over yourself and over those committed to your care? Give examples.