

The Majesty of Ministry

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Timothy 4:1-4.

B. Paul is seeking to open Timothy's eyes to the importance of what he is trying to do.

II. It is helpful to realize that what we are doing is important.

A. Paul reminds Timothy that he is laboring in the presence of God the Father.

B. Jesus understands all of human history and before Him Timothy has his ministry.

C. Believers are the spectacle of the universe. (I Corinthians 4)

D. Paul advises Timothy to look to Christ's first appearing to know that he is involved in the advance of this great work of God.

1. The ministry of Christians is extremely important.

2. The Christian advances the kingdom when he behaves like Christ.

III. The most essential witness of the Christian is to preach the word, which is necessary for all Christians.

A. Preaching is simply to declare.

B. It can happen anywhere.

C. It is to be done urgently and with passion, which is a biblical warrant against laziness.

D. The word sets human hearts free.

E. The approach.

1. The believer is to convince with the logic of the gospel.

2. The believer may need to rebuke when someone has fallen into sin.

3. Some may need encouragement to act.

4. The believer is to patiently teach, avoiding pressure tactics when people are not ready.

IV. A time will come when people will reject Christian principles, and that time has come.

A. People have difficulty accepting truth because human weakness must be admitted.

B. Some have "itching ears" wanting to hear whatever suits them, so they go off to false teachers.

C. The word must be preached.

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to a Christian who says that preaching is only the responsibility of a vocational preacher?

2. What are some things that believers must “preach?”

3. Why is preaching so important for every Christian today? Explain.
