

The Marks of a Discerning Congregation

2 Timothy 4:1-4

Historical Context of Ephesus

Context of North American Church

MAIN POINT OF SERMON: *A discerning congregation cherishes truth at all costs.*

They cherish Christ's authority in their lives (v. 1).

The truth is King Jesus is _____ over all things, even your life, and the cost is you _____ all to your blessed Savior.

They cherish Biblical preaching (v. 1).

2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness..."

Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Ephesians 1:13, "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit..."

John 17:17, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."

1 Thessalonians 2:13, "And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers."

Psalms 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

1 Peter 1:25, "'but the word of the Lord remains forever.' And this word is the good news that was preached to you."

2 Timothy 2:16-17, "But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, ¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus..."

Psalms 119:11, "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

1 Corinthians 1:18, "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

1 Corinthians 1:21, "For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe."

Romans 10:17, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Luke 4:43-44, "but he said to them, 'I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.' ⁴⁴ And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea."

The truth is God has ordained the _____ to save, strengthen, and sanctify His people, and it is _____ the word, and the cost is giving up what we think is best or what appears _____ or _____.

They cherish readiness (v. 2).

The truth is God _____ readiness and the cost is we must set aside other exciting things in order to _____ the most exciting thing.

They cherish reproof, rebuke, and exhortation (v. 2).

Psalms 141:5, "Let a righteous man strike me- it is a kindness; let him rebuke me- it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it."

The truth is God is interested in a _____ bride and the cost is laying aside our _____ so we can receive God's discipline through other people.

They cherish teaching above trend (v. 2-3).

The truth is God causes growth through _____ and the cost is we must put aside _____ and more highly esteem God's _____.

They cherish the truth (v. 4).

1 Timothy 4:1, "Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will *depart from the faith* by devoting themselves to *deceitful spirits* and *teachings of demons*."

Proverbs 4:5, "Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth."

John 8:31-32, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"

The truth is God is a God of _____ and the cost is we must _____ to Him and _____ to ourselves and worldly wisdom so that we can know ourselves loved and secure in Him.

John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life..."

John 18:37, "For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world- to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."