

“IN SEASON – OUT OF SEASON”

(II Tim 4:1-2)

“1 I charge thee in the sight of God, and of Christ Jesus, who shall judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching,” II Tim. 4:1-2. Do I need to remind you that Timothy was a young man associated with the apostle Paul, preaching the Gospel of Christ? It is said concerning Timothy, *“Him would Paul have to go forth with him,”* Acts. 16:3. It is understood by this statement that to this end we find Paul using him as a preacher: *“3 As I exhorted thee to tarry at Ephesus, when I was going into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge certain men not to teach a different doctrine,”* I Tim. 1:3. Paul had this in mind from the beginning when he found this young man Timothy. Paul helped him to be a preacher of the gospel!

II Tim. 4:1-2 speaks of an **“in season – out of season.”** I understand Paul to be saying, *“Preach it when they like the preaching, Preach it when they do not like the preaching.”* Thus, there is and **“in season and an out of season.”** There are some subjects of the Bible certain folks will not like. Many have been times when I preached on **homosexuality** and there were those who did not like it; but, I had to continue to preach it whether they liked it or not. The **liar** does not like those who preach against lying; nor, do the users of the Lord’s name in vain like those who preach to them the woes of **cussing**. Likewise the **fornicator** will not want the preacher to preach against fornication. It is understood those who are **guilty of sin** will not like the preacher preaching on their sin. We used to kid folks that when the preacher gets to naming certain sins, **he starts meddling**. Have you ever thought that this might be just what God wants in his preaching of the Gospel? It is said in our text to **“reprove, rebuke and exhort.”** Does he not say that in this text?

Could he then be saying, *“Preach it when they like the preaching, Preach it when they do not like the preaching.”* Thus, there is an **“in season and an out of season.”** It is understood, in this text, *“3 For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lust; 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables,”* II Tim. 4:3-4. There are truly times when folks will not listen; but, we must **continue** preaching the gospel.

Through the years, I have had opportunity to preach from the **pulpit** – this I did. I have had opportunity to preach the truth in public **debates**, this I did and baptized a lot of people from those public discussions. Many have been the times I have conducted **private bible classes** and the results were, some were baptized. I have taken a **little table** and set up in **front of a post office** – I talked and handed out tracts. I have taken the same **little table** and set up on a **street corner** and talked with people as they passed by. I just put up a little sign: *“Want to talk about the bible?”* It worked! I met a lot of people I have never talked with before. All of this is cited as an **opportunity** or **medium** through which to reach people, possibly you have a different approach. That is good. The point I am making is that we are to preach the word, **“in season - out of season.”**

Is it possible we have become **complacent**? Have we (I am talking about preachers and church members) gotten to the point of thinking we do not have the responsibility that we used to have and have just about given up? Possibly, we need to be reminded that our responsibility is to preach the word to all who come our way. Invite them to the services of the Church of Christ. Give them an opportunity to accept an invitation from you!

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