



C2Cnetwork

presents

T H R I V E

NOT LOSING HEART:
A MINISTRY ENCOURAGEMENT FROM II CORINTHIANS 4

CADRE WITH NORM FUNK
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018



THRIVE: Session I: Ministry as a gift of Mercy

April 11, 2018 – Horizon College & Seminary

WELCOME

OUTLINE OF DAY

- **Session I – Ministry as a gift of Mercy**
- **Session II – Ministry as a call to Proclaim**
- **Session III – Ministry and Soul-Care**

TWO VERSES THAT GUIDED MY PREP

“Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.” (II Cor. 4:1)

“Therefore, I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder” (II Peter 1:20-21)

A QUICK BIO

4 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (II Cor. 4:1-6 – ESV)

I. IT'S A GIFT OF _____

“Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient...” (II Cor. 3:5-6a).

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“Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory?” (II Cor. 3:7-8).

II. OUR MINISTRY CALLS US TO PROCLAIM THE _____ OF THE GOSPEL – READ vv. 2-3

“I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.” (Acts 20:27).

1. TO NOT PROCLAIM IT _____

2. TO RELY ON _____ PRACTICES

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.” (Rom. 1:16)

III. MINISTRY CALLS US TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL BECAUSE OF WHAT IT _____

1. _____ - v. 6.

2. _____ – vv. 5-6

3. THE GOSPEL IS _____ AND JESUS BRINGS _____

“In Jesus was life and the life was the light of men.” (John 1:4)

IV. MINISTRY NEEDS TO BE UNDERGIRDDED WITH _____ AND TOTAL DEPENDANCE ON THE _____

“Blindness is not a problem unless there's something to see.”

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“16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 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: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry” (II Tim. 3:16-4:5)

SOME CONTEXT

“I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare” (Phil. 2:20).

I. WHAT THE WORD _____

“...truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished” (Matthew 5:18).

“...no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (II Peter 1:21).

“...the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts...’” (Heb. 3:7-8a).

“...‘Today,’ saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.’”

“Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says...”

“I *am* – not “*I was*” - the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, He’s not the God of the dead but the living...” (Ex. 3:6). (see: Matthew 22:23ff)

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“...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” (Heb. 4:12).

“[the word is] an imperishable seed that is living and abiding” (I Peter 1:23).

“So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us” (I Thess. 2:8).

II. WHAT THE WORD _____

“As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear” (I Tim. 5:20).

“...be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22).

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock” (Matthew 7:24).

III. HOW TO PREACH THE WORD

1. PREACH _____

2. PREACH _____

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Rom. 1:16).

3. PREACH _____

- II Timothy 2:24-26

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4. PREACH _____

“Preach as never sure to preach again, like a dying man to dying men.” (Richard Baxter, 15th Century English Puritan)

5. PREACH _____

- II Timothy 2:1

6. PREACH _____

Jesus says, “...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

A FINAL REMINDER

- “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me” (John 5:39)
- “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself” (Luke 24:27)
- “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them” (Matthew 5:17)
- “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14)

THRIVE: Session III: Ministry and Soul-Care

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I. REVIEW

- Ministry as a gift of Mercy
- Ministry as a call to Proclaim

II. SOME POSSIBLE AND PROBABLE CHALLENGES

1. THE HARSH - FREEING? - _____ THAT YOU AREN'T CALLED NOR GIFTED TO PREACH

“Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?” (I Cor. 12:29).

“He gave some to be...teachers...” (Eph. 4:11).

“Preachers are born, not made. This is an absolute. You will never teach a man to be a preacher if he is not one already.” Martyn Lloyd Jones

2. THE “_____” MOMENT

“What’s it to you...you follow me.” (John 21:22)

“To some he gave, 5, 2, 1 talent...” (Matthew 25:15)

3. SEASONS OF _____ GROANINGS, VALLIES AND DRY TIMES

“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching” (II Tim. 4:2)

4. _____ “FADS” AND “NEW THINGS” AND THOSE “FOR A TIME AND SEASON” OUTPOURINGS

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5. LIFE _____ AND _____

- Single to Married
- Kids
- The Plant or the first preaching gig
- Planting another
- Growth

III. SO HOW DO WE BATTLE?

1. A JEALOUS COMMITMENT TO YOUR _____

“I am more and more convinced that what gives a ministry its motivations, perseverance, humility, joy, tenderness, passion and grace is the devotional life of the one doing ministry.” (Paul Tripp, A Dangerous Calling)

- “...It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables...[therefore] we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” (Acts 6:2&4)

“Reclaim the morning.” (Jon Tyson)

2. AN ONGOING PURSUIT OF FINDING YOUR _____ IN CHRIST

“It’s only when your identity is firmly rooted in Christ that you are free from seeking your identity out of your ministry.” (Tripp)

QUESTION: What does “identity in Christ” mean?

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- “Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ” (Gal. 1:10).
- “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Col. 3:1-3).
- “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death” (Phil. 3:8-10).

3. WATCHING YOUR _____ AND _____ CLOSELY

- “Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers” (I Tim. 4:16).

“Sin most often leads to doubt not the other way around.” (a paraphrase)

4. EVALUATING HOW YOU MEASURE _____

i. HOW HE RESPONDED TO THE CORINTHIANS

- See: I Cor. 1:3-9
- “If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord” (I Cor. 9:2).

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ii. SUFFERING

- “From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus” (Gal. 6:17).
- “Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory” (II Tim. 2:10)
- See: II Cor. 11:16-30

iii. FAITHFULNESS

- “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (II Tim. 4:7)

5. A _____ BIRTHING AND UNDERGIRDING OF YOUR MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

“And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” (Mark 1:36-38).

6. “PROFESSIONAL” _____

“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear” (Eph. 4:29)

7. “ _____ ”

8. THAT YOU ALLOT YOURSELF THE SAME _____ AND _____ YOU OFFER YOUR PEOPLE

9. NOT MAKING _____ OF “LIKES”, AFFIRMATION, KIND WORDS OR “FOLLOWS”

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy” (Prov. 27:6)