**These Perilous Times**

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**“To Preach or not to Preach?”**

**(Adapted from TPT article May 21, 2009)**

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lust shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

II Timothy 4:2-4

Paul, foreseeing the future apostasy coming into the church gives Timothy explicit instructions. “Preach the word…” Regardless of whether it feels right, convenient, or the lack there of, the Word must go forward with its transforming, converting power. Will everyone be receptive to the truth? NO! Did everyone follow Jesus’ teaching? NO! However, that does not mean that we become apathetic, and shirk our responsibility as last-day “light bearers.”

The same instruction Paul gave to Timothy over 2000 years ago, still applies to God’s servants today! Preach the word! The same gospel commission that Jesus gave to the Apostles is relevant for us today.

The scriptures tell us that Paul encountered resistance when he taught about Christ back in his day. Making no excuses for his half-hearted audience he preached the word.

“And after certain days when Felix came with his wife Drusilla… he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning his faith in Christ. And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance and judgment to come, Felix trembled and answered, go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.” Acts 24:24&25

**What does this mean for us?**

**Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season**

**“**The message for today must be as direct as was the message of John. He rebuked kings for their iniquity. He rebuked the adultery of Herod. Notwithstanding his life was in peril, the truth did not languish upon his lips. And our work in this age must be as faithfully done… There are special duties to be done, special reproofs to be given in this period of earth’s history. The Lord will not have his church without reproofs and warnings. Sins have become fashionable; but they are none the less aggravating in the sight of God. They are glossed over, palliated, and excused; the right hand of fellowship is given to the very men who are bringing in false theories and false sentiments, confusing the minds of the people of God, deadening their sensibilities as to what constitutes right principles.” *Selected Messages,* Book One, p. 151. In the investigative judgment, all will be judged by how they reacted in relation to what they knew. “All must wait to the appointed time, until the warning shall have gone to all parts of the world, until sufficient light and evidence have been given to every soul. Some will have less light than others but each one will be judged according to the light received.” M.S. 77, 1899.

**“**In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

Acts 17:30&31 (Also see I Pet. 4:17, 18; Rev. 14:6-12)

“Those who have an opportunity to hear the truth and yet take no pains to hear or understand it, thinking if they do not hear they will not be accountable, will be judged guilty before God the same as if they heard and rejected. There will be no excuse for those who choose to go in error when they might understand what truth is. In His suffering and death Jesus made atonement for all sins of ignorance, but there is no provision made for willful blindness.” SDA Bible Com. Vol. 5, p. 1145.

“For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire, which will consume the adversaries.” Hebrews 10:26, 27

What is the “Bible Commission” **given to all** of God’s last-day servants?

“…Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19&20

Friends, if there ever was a time to share Jesus with others, the time is NOW! There is no time left for procrastination or excuses, while living on the verge of our eternal destiny! “…Whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear…” (Ezekiel 2:5).The “Everlasting Gospel” message must be given. It is our responsibility as God’s remnant people.