INTRODUCTION

It isn’t always safe to read other people’s mail.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 is a letter by a preacher to a preacher. What’s the application to us?

Four things we all need to know about preaching.

I. **The Preaching of God’s Word is God’s Word (2 Tim. 4:2)**

Paul tells Timothy to preach the Word.

“‘The church is God’s mouth house.’” – Martin Luther

“Why doesn’t God really talk to us like that?”

Paul’s point is that God does. The preaching of the Word of God is the Word of God. Through biblical preaching, scripture speaks to us not just about Jesus, and not just for Jesus, but as Jesus.

II. **The Preaching of God’s Word Works (2 Tim. 4:2b)**

God’s Word provides us with everything we need as Christians to make us complete.

I may not always feel it or even notice the change in myself at first. But over time, the preaching of God’s Word works.

III. **The Preaching of God’s Word Sorts Us Out (2 Tim. 4:3-5)**

It’s important to note that 4:3-5 is written to and about professed Christians.

A. The Harry Mudd Group (3-4)

B. The Timothy Group (5)

“Either this book will keep you from your sins or your sins will keep you from this book.”

IV. **The Preaching of God’s Word Points Us to Another World (2 Tim. 4:1)**

We live in a dark world. Sometimes it is easy to lose our way.
What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived—the things God has prepared for those who love him—these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. — 1 Cor. 2:9-10

“People with both feet on earth have no invisible means of support.” — Vance Havner

**CONCLUSION**

“As we begin each new day, often, the welfare of our families, the prosperity of our work, and our service for Christ rush to occupy our first attention. In my experience, however, I have found the most important thing to be attended to is God’s word. Other things may press upon us, the Lord’s work may even have urgent claims, but I deliberately repeat, it is of supreme importance that we attend to God’s word. In scripture as nowhere else our souls have a rich, divine, imperishable, and eternal treasure. Nothing else can so sustain us in our way. Attend, I say, attend to God’s word.”

Paul would agree — that’s why he encourages Timothy to preach God’s Word and us to receive it. He knew . . .

- That the preaching of God’s Word is God’s Word
- That it works
- That it sorts us out
- That it provides us with an “invisible means of support”