

Recap of 10/11/26 message by Chris Sommerfield
("Preach the Word") 2 Timothy 4:1-22

- In this passage, Paul charges Timothy to preach the Word boldly and faithfully, emphasizing the importance of sound doctrine and perseverance in ministry amidst opposition. In an age of distraction, we must commit to faithfully proclaiming the enduring truth of God's Word as heralds of the King. Imprisoned in Rome and facing imminent execution, Paul reflects on his faithfulness: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith". The letter's core message demands that Christian leaders remain unashamed of the gospel and faithfully transmit Christ's message to the next generation.

- To preach the word is to be a faithful herald, proclaiming the King's message to His kingdom. The command to preach doesn't require formal ordination or a pulpit setting, it calls for public heralding of the gospel message, whether in a mass gathering or one-on-one conversation. The core content of the charge remains universally applicable: the focus is the Word of God. The idea "preach the gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words," often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, is a good reminder to live out our faith; however, too often believers allow this mentality to give them license to not use their words in sharing the gospel as faithful heralds. I much prefer the idea, "It was axiomatic that every Christian was called on to be a witness to Christ, not only by life but by lip" (Michael Green, *Evangelism in the Early Church*). This calls us to share the gospel and live consistently according to our faith.

- It is important for us to ask ourselves if we are faithful to the King's message, the Word of God. Do we know the message? Do we change it? Do we proclaim it? If we do not, why? What might this reveal about our faith and how we view God? If we truly believe He is good, gracious, merciful, abounding in love, slow to anger, just, righteous, and the judge of the living and the dead, what could possibly hold us back from proclaiming to the world, "thus says my King..."