

Notes of Sermons Preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
On Lord's day June 12th 1910

Morning Sermon

Text: 2 Timothy 4 verse 2: Preach the word; be instant in season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

I hope I felt in some measure last evening the Holy Spirit prompting me to secret prayer. The burden of my prayer was that the Lord would help me in my ministerial labours. I thought I had a word on my mind to come before you with, but while pleading with the Lord the words I have read by way of a text came into my mind: *Preach the word; be instant in season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.* I thought immediately of the great apostle giving the solemn charge to his son Timothy: *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom. Preach the word.*

The apostle had been a preacher for many years. God called him by His grace, and enriched him with grace to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. You remember how God bade Ananias enquire for Saul, and he said: *I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to Thy saints at Jerusalem: and here he hath authority... to bind all that call on Thy name. (Acts 9:13,14)* And again, how the Lord told the apostle Paul that he should preach the gospel of His grace among the Gentiles, to be a witness unto all men of these things. When the Lord thus called him, and revealed His Son in him, he conferred not with flesh and blood. God made him a faithful, able and fervent minister for the saving of the dead elect. And grace was manifested by the apostle in life, and also in death, for just before he wrote the epistle to Timothy, he had an intimation that his time was at hand: *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. (2 Timothy 4:7)*

He would encourage Timothy in the solemn work of the ministry. Timothy was a young man, but God had raised him up and qualified him for the work. It would appear from the first epistle that there were those who prophesied he would be raised up to *war a good warfare. (ch.1:18)* And then in *chapter 4* he says that it was prophesied that he should have the gift to preach the gospel: *If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.... Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them; for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee. (v.6, 15,16)*

The apostle knew the life of a minister, and what they were called to pass through. So he writes to Timothy, and tries to encourage him. He says that the Lord stood by him, and that He would stand by Timothy in the solemn work to which He had called him. God must raise up men to preach the gospel. *How shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! (Romans 10:15)* So God still raises up and sends forth men to preach the gospel.

Are there not moments when you pray God to raise up labourers in His vineyard? He gives grace to His people, but He gives ministerial grace to those He sends into His vineyard, and will help them in the discharge of His ministry. I remember this, when He said to me: *Ye are enriched in all utterance. (1 Corinthians 1:5)* and in *godly fear. (Hebrews 12:28)* God must enrich. How ignorant God's servants sometimes feel themselves to be! How they have to cry to God to reveal His word unto them! God does reveal unto them His word. What a mercy when Jesus sends the Holy Spirit, and the man goes forth to preach Christ, the Word. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)*

Preach the word. Preach Christ as the eternal Son of the eternal Father, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father. I like that word of Mr. Popham's in the report of the Gospel Standard Societies, speaking of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. The Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Ghost is God. Three Persons co-equal in the indivisible God-head. Christ is to be preached, the essential Word. Preach Him as the Son of God. *The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. (John 1:14)* In the fulness of time God sent forth His Son. He does not spare Him. He sends Him forth in the likeness of sinful flesh. *He came unto His own – that is, unto the Jews – and they received Him not. (John 1:11)* Christ was in the world – He made it. *Without controversy great is (this) mystery. (1 Timothy 3:16)* He, the mighty God, the everlasting Father. In Him dwelt all the fullness. He is God. On His own confession He was God, and the Jews took up stones to stone Him. Made Himself of no reputation. For sin, to condemn sin in the flesh. The life was manifested. Paul saw it: *Last of all, he says, He was seen of me as one born out of due time.*

And then there is life nowhere else. Christ manifested in the flesh. Preach Him. You know, before a person can rightly preach Christ manifested in the flesh, he must know something of the mystery, he must handle this life, he must know this life. It is impossible for a person to rightly preach the incarnate Word unless he has a saving knowledge of the power of His Word. The Lord made Himself known to Paul, and he exhorts Timothy to preach the word.

Notice this, that many who were made exceedingly useful to the church were called in early life. Here you have an aged minister charging the young man to preach the word. All scripture is given by inspiration by God, and is profitable for instruction and reproof, that the man of God may be perfect. How Paul exhorts Timothy to study the word, that he may be a workman not to be ashamed. *Preach the word*, the incarnate word; preach Christ; preach the truth. Here we have the written word, the gospel of the grace of God. The scriptures are written for our learning, that we might have comfort from them. *Preach the word.* A solemn charge. What an unspeakable mercy that the Lord called Timothy, and stood by him, and helped him in preaching the word.

The life of a minister is a laborious one. He has to labour – *to show thyself approved* – that is – *approved unto God.* I hope it is increasingly my desire to have the sweet assurance from time to time that I am a servant of God. A man that has been called to the work wants to know he has been called to preach, as well as called by grace. I remember this, before I knew a pardoning Christ, I said that if He would make known the riches of His grace, I would –

*...tell to sinners round
What a dear Saviour I have found.*

You know, this was the warmth of one's feelings. But when the Lord made Himself known unto me, I felt the most unlikely. But there was the solemn exercise going on: *Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel.* None but those who are solemnly exercised concerning the ministry know the solemn exercises they are the subject of. I believe this: for the most part, godly people have in their mind that such an one will be raised up. While that person is being exercised, there are those being exercised concerning him. How I came forth and feared that I should be confused before the people. I believe, for the most part, this is how God works with those He is bringing into the solemn work of the ministry. It is a solemn thing, friends, to preach the word. How sometimes there is this exercise to give it up – I will not make mention of His name any more. His word was in my heart as a burning fire in my bones. It must come out. A man will solemnly feel the truth of the word of God: *That man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is not fit for the kingdom of heaven.* After months of abstaining from the preaching of the word, and when my dear pastor asked me to preach, O what exercises of soul! I had to say: *Power belongeth to the Lord.*

He brings them forth to preach the word. Oh what a mercy when one is helped to preach the word. *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth glad tidings.* O what a mercy to have the gospel of the grace of God preached among you.

Now, as I have already hinted, the life of a minister is a laborious one. He knows what it is to watch for the souls of his hearers, what it is to be brought very low, and sometimes to be lifted up. He watches for souls. Do you think it possible for me to come here without watching for your souls? The day is coming when one will have to give account of his stewardship. These things weigh one down. To preach the word in all its fullness is to preach Christ in the sum and substance - the only refuge for sinners, a precious Saviour to be exalted. Having the ministry, we faint not, but if our gospel be hid to them that are lost. The gospel and the Saviour of life.

Who is sufficient for these things? *We have this treasure in earthen vessels.* How weak this minister is that is called to preach the word. God must give the increase. *Preach the word.* Preach Christ as the end of the law for righteousness, the Redeemer of His people, the Refuge for sinners made known in the gospel. All they that come unto God by Him, pleading their cause:

*For all that come to God by Him,
Salvation He demands;
Points to their names upon His breast,
And spreads His wounded hands. (A M Toplady)*

It is sweet work when the Lord favours a man to preach Christ as the Intercessor at the Father's right hand. They are bound in soul feeling to distraction. The sinner feels that hell will be his portion. The sinner falls before the Lord. He feels that he shall perish everlastingly. But the minister preaches the word, and preaches Christ, pleading the cause of this man. *Father, I will that all Thou hast given Me be with Me where I am.*

We leave the subject for this morning. May God add His blessing.

Afternoon Sermon

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. (2 Timothy 4:2)

We noticed this morning that the apostle was not only called by grace, but was enriched with ministerial grace to preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. He was what God made him, an able, faithful servant. He watched for souls as one that must give an account, that he might give an account with joy and not with grief. He charges Timothy to preach the word. Now mark this, had not the apostle been satisfied that Timothy was a man God had raised up, and sent forth to preach the word, he would never have given him this solemn charge. It was prophesied that Timothy should preach, and so he says *Preach the word* – preach as we noticed the essential word that was made flesh – in the Eternal Son of the Eternal Father. He tabernacles among men. Preach the incarnate Word. In fulness of time Christ came into the world, and took upon Him our nature in the womb of the virgin Mary – God incarnate. And there is no real comfort for the poor sinner's soul, only as he beholds God incarnate.

*'Till God in human flesh I see,
My thoughts no comfort find. (Isaac Watts)*

Ah! that is it, friends. It is when we know we are united to Him, the church's living Head. How blessed is the sinner's experience!

Now the apostle knew that Timothy was well instructed in the scriptures, and he says, *Preach the word*. You know, men preach anything but the word in the day in which we live. They do not take this Book and preach the word. The scriptures were written for our learning, that we might have help. And the child of God is well instructed in this. He wants to hear the preacher that lays the sinner low and exalts Christ. If you read the word of God, see how low it lays the sinner, and how it exalts Christ. I believe this, friends. God will well teach you and me these two things if we are in His school – the sinner’s badness, and God’s goodness. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. There is not one that doeth good. *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief*. Christ lived, and died, and rose again, and stood at the right hand of God, interceding for sinners. A sinner is brought to the footstool of divine mercy, and feels that God would be just to damn him to hell. It has ever been so in soul feeling. Have you ever felt it? The Lord Jesus Christ in heaven has something to say on your behalf. He pleads His blood and demands your salvation. It is not the will of the Father that one of these should perish. Ah, say you, I do not feel that I am one – that is another thing altogether.

*For all that come to God by Him,
Salvation He demands;
Points to their names upon His breast,
And spreads His wounded hands. (A M Toplady)*

You cannot believe it, poor sinner? But your name is engraved on the palms of His hands. *The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His*. You cannot put yourself among God’s people. Ah, perhaps sometimes you do inwardly groan, “Am I His, or am I not?” Perhaps you inwardly groan, “Put me among Thy children.” He hath borne their iniquity; the Father laid upon Him their iniquity. O what wondrous words of grace! Have you ever had one moment’s meditation upon them? *It pleased the Father to bruise Him. A seed shall serve Him, and it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation*. His people are a peculiar people, a royal priesthood.

Preach the word, preach the gospel. Blessed work, when God the Holy Ghost enables a man to do it. I know what I am speaking about. I have heard some of my happiest moments in the pulpit. But sometimes, as soon as I have left the pulpit, I have entered the cloud. O my distrustful heart! Why does God permit His servants thus to have these painful trials? Is it not that they may prove helpful to the living, the living in Jerusalem? God’s servants have been willing to be dealt with in this manner that they may be a comfort to God’s people, with the comforts they are comforted with. They must know something of these things that they may comfort God’s people.

Preach the word. There is such a fulness in this expression. I have told you how I got the words. To preach the word is to preach the whole counsel of God, whether men will hear or will forbear. We preach the word, the gospel of the blessed God. And what is it that bears up God’s people but the gospel? It is good news to the sinner. To preach the word is to preach Christ in all His fulness. He lives to save to the very uttermost, and they all come to God by Him.

Paul well knew that the time would come when persons would not endure the preaching of the word, as he says in the next verse to our text. Persons will say the Strict Baptists are dying out. Well, the word of God speaks of it before. It will make the weak believers have serious thoughts, but –

*If aught there dark appear,
Bewail thy want of sight;
No imperfection can be there,
For all God’s words are right. (Joseph Hart)*

We are living in solemn times. Men will not hear the truth. God’s word says it will be so. They will turn from the truth unto any fable. Men may rise up and go after this or that man, and turn right away

from the truth. Well, Paul says, “go on preaching.” It is a word to the preacher of today as much as it was to Timothy. We are to go on preaching the word. The apostle desired to be made a man of God, to be made perfect. His one desire was to the glory of God. His servants have at times a single eye to the glory of God. It is no small mercy to have a single eye to the glory of God in the salvation of sinners. Proclaim the truth of God, set it forth, whether men will hear or forbear. Testify of the grace of God which brings salvation unto the hearts of sinners, of His resurrection, of His second coming.

Preach the word. God reveals these deep things unto His servants, and they bring forth these deep things in their ministry. He hid these things from the wise and prudent, and He reveals them unto these weak men. He makes them wise and enables them to preach the word. Look at those God has raised up – mighty men valiant for the truth, and even now they being dead yet speak. *Preach the word.* God, who calls His servants to preach, stands by them in the preaching of the word. God does not send them forth in the warfare at their own charges. He stands by them. The apostle says, *Having been helped of God, I continue unto this day.* God stood by him, and crowned his labours with richest blessings. When others forsook him, God did not forsake him.

But to Timothy he says, *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season.* That is, never lose opportunity, always be engaged in the work that God has called you to. Give yourself to study, to meditation, and to preaching. *Be instant in season. Preach the word.* Ah, there were moments when the apostle was in season, and when he had an opportunity to preach the word. And they preached the word. The Lord stood by them in the proclamation of His precious gospel. *Be instant in season.* That is, being in season when God knows the man, and he preaches the word with energy and power, while gospel blessings spread around like a refreshing shower. O sweet season! It is refreshing to the man’s own soul, and to the souls of God’s people.

But the apostle says, *out of season.* I shall have to be brief here. *Preach the word; in season, out of season.* He preached Him when men loved to hear (if I may so put it), and he preached Him when men rose up against him. If we lived in the days of the apostle, there would not be so many preachers, not so many at the street corners. It cost them something in those days. *Preach the word. If any man will live godly in Christ Jesus, he shall suffer persecution.* He knew Timothy would suffer persecution, but he says, “Go on preaching. If they persecute you, still preach on. *Be instant in season.* Let Christ be made manifest in your body after it be put to death.” We poor ministers in our day do not know what persecution is. And if we hear anything said against us, it touches us more than it ought to do. We ought to be ready to preach. I believe this: the more faithful a man is, the more he will be hated.

Be instant in season, out of season. Some will be ready to say, “I did not look at it in that manner. I thought it would be when the minister was in bondage.” You can look at it in that manner. I pray sometimes after this manner: “Lord, let me have something for the people today.” I have been ready to say: “Lord, I am willing to go and preach without having anything for myself, if I may comfort the souls of my hearers.” But sometimes I have to say: “Lord, I must have something myself, even if all my hearers go without,” for sometimes my own case is desperate. How sweet it is when the minister goes into the pulpit and the Lord shines through the sacred pages, and there is a coming together in the things of God. Our soul is full of the blessing of the Lord as we flow together for wheat and for wine. Your soul is as a watered garden. Blessed season! I wish I had more grace. Some are always ready for prayer. Some so ready to believe. But I often feel so far from the Lord. I need the Lord to put His hand to the work, and to come down into my soul as rain upon the mown grass. Those of you who mow the grass know how the rain revives it. And is it not so in our souls? How fast we see the days come; how our spirit rejoices in God our Saviour. I must not dwell here.

Reprove. They won’t like it if I do. Never mind that, Timothy, if they don’t. Be faithful, reprove. Be faithful in the discharge of our ministry. *Rebuke.* In the *fifth chapter of the first Epistle* Paul writes: *Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. (v.20)* Now you know, if a minister was to

do this in the day in which we live, to rebuke a man before all, he would be offended. A minister told me he had thus rebuked a man openly before all, and he was never forgiven by that man. But he was not condemned in his own conscience. He was faithful in thus rebuking. There are some that want rebuking openly. Some want speaking to gently, in secret. And this is a part of the work of a minister. Now, if a man sins and goes astray, we are told in one part of the word of God: *Brethren, if any man be overtaken in a fault, ye that are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. (Galatians 6:1)* I thought how applicable to the minister when any are overtaken in a fault – striving to restore them in the spirit of meekness. We would not allow sin. *Rebuke.*

Exhort. Timothy was young, and the apostle besought him so to walk, so to command, so to teach, that *no man despise thy youth.* Exhort to love, to good works, to more diligence in the things of God. Not to forsake the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is. Suffer the word of exhortation. I do love to exhort my hearers. You know I love to. I sometimes feel I can appeal to God that I love to keep His precepts. I thought upon my ways. I made haste to keep Thy commands. A minister has need of patience. I dare say you need patience in hearing me; you need the grace of patience, and I need the grace of patience in exhorting. I would exhort in all long-suffering. *Exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine – sound doctrine.*

The Lord add His blessing, and to His Name shall be all the praise. Amen.