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Monthly Newsletter

RUNNING THE RACE-KEEPING THE FAITH

Scripture Reading 2nd Timothy 1-8 (NKJV)

“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables...” (2nd Timothy 4: 1-8)

The Apostle Paul was writing Timothy telling him that he should be ready in and out of season, influence, reprimand, have patience and teach those within the church Body. Why was Paul telling Timothy to be ready? Today, many of the churches think that they are ready for the coming of the Lord, but that is far from the truth. Paul said be ready in all seasons.

Most people prepare for upcoming seasons, occasions, events, and engagements, but no one prepares for something that he or she doesn't anticipate coming. What Paul is saying is that those who are preaching the Gospel shouldn't just study the Word or prepare only when they are getting ready to minister to others. These individuals should always be studying the Word and be rooted and grounded in the Word of God.

Sadly, too many pastors and preachers are preaching the gospel because they are getting paid and not because they are determined to save souls for the Kingdom of God. Preaching the Gospel has become a full-time paying job for many preachers, and they are only preparing to do it because they are getting paid. You know what I'm talking about is truth. Oftentimes, my messages do not fit into other

people's doctrines, but the truth is the truth, and someone needs to tell it.

Those individuals who are not prepared to preach the Gospel out of season will preach unscriptural messages because they are looking to give their listeners an emotional high. This kind of religious manipulation encourages both believers and unbelievers to live according to the world's standards. Presently, only few individuals want to hear the “Pure Gospel” of Jesus Christ. The pure Gospel will expose sin and save souls, but most people today don't want their sinful behavior exposed and they don't think their souls needs to be saved.

However, those individuals who are called to preach the Gospel in and out of season must remain rooted and grounded in the Word of God. They must not change the Truth to suit their own beliefs.

Paul says, **Convince**-meaning as Christians we have to preach the Gospel in such a way that it influences those who are still in doubt. We have to demonstrate the Love of God through our preaching. We have the written evidence about Jesus, death, burial, and resurrection but oftentimes, we are trying to persuade others with our intellect instead of opening the Bible and showing them the Truth. We are not called just to impress others with how much Bible verses we know. We are called to be representatives of Jesus Christ here on Earth.

Rebuke-meaning point out what is “**sinful/wrong**” expose ungodly behavior and condemn ungodly actions. When you do, the Holy Spirit will tug on that person's conscious and convict him or her. We must not condone what others are doing when it is wrong or gossip about it. Leaders in the Church must not tolerate ungodliness within the

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Body of Christ. Sin allows people to behave and act ungodly without even knowing that their actions are offensive to others.

Too many people are tolerating sin without confronting others about it and making them aware of the sin penalty. The Bible says, in Romans 6:12-13 **“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin...”**

Oftentimes, we forget that **the “Wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.”** (Romans 6:23.) Yes, Jesus paid our sin debt in full on the Cross.

Exhort-meaning to urge, to enlighten, to plead with, and to start encouraging others to live a purposeful life. Don't take what Jesus Christ has done on the Cross for granted. Paul went on to say that a time is coming when people will not endure sound doctrine nor godly preaching. I personally believe that time is upon us. Today, there are many people who do not want to hear anything about Jesus or the Gospel but that doesn't mean we have to stop preaching it.

As Christians, it is our duty to demonstrate the love of God and tell others about the goodness of Jesus even if they don't want to take heed or listen to us. The devil has tried everything and now, he is misleading people to turn away from sound doctrine.

I dare you - the next person you come in contact with just say **“ITS FREEDOM TIME”**. The truth is, Jesus saw your tears, He heard your cry for help, He is ready to answer your prayer, and He wants to give you your heart's desire. Why? King David said, **“For the Lord is a shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.”** (Psalms 84:11.)

Jesus bore our sins and He is not going to leave you in the same old frame of mind as He met you. The Word of God is not a myth it is the Living

Truth-Jesus is Alive and He is coming again. This Book--the BIBLE contains sound doctrine, read it for yourself and don't allow anyone to deceive or deprive you from learning the Truth for yourself. Remember, the devil disguises himself as an angel of light, meaning he works through people he knows you will listen to and those you will trust.

My message to you during this Lent Season, is **“run the race and keep the faith.”** I summon every man or woman of God who has been called and set aside to preach the Gospel to continue preaching sound doctrine, continue to witness for the Lord, continue to tell others and demonstrate the Love of Jesus, and continue to stand firm in your Faith. We must endure hardship; do not drop out of the race. Now is not the time to quit. Remember these wise words from King Solomon, **“...The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill, but time and chance happen to them all.”** (Ecclesiastes 9:11)

Jesus is depending on us to spread the Gospel to all Nations - so what are you waiting for? You were chosen because you are the fittest and best. The Bible says, **“For many are called, but few are chosen.”** (Matthew 22:14) My brother/sister let us be ready in season and out of season. We must allow the Holy Spirit to lead, guide and direct us in the things of God. Forget about being religious. It is time to have a Personal relationship with Jesus.

We are running out of time; it is time we finish the course and keep the Faith. Our future depends on the race we run, our fighting the good fight of faith and our finishing the course. Jesus has a crown of righteousness laid up for you, but you must go through the due process. Your Faith must stand trial. Just remember at the end you win and have been acquitted. Free at last, thank God we all are free at last. Keep your mind and eyes on Jesus. I leave you with Peace and God's saving Grace.

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT AND HELP YOU WITH YOUR RE-ENTRY WHEN YOU GET OUT.

Contact our Ministry or Ms. Christian Green, NYC Health Justice Network. (646) 856-0368 Email: cgreen7@health.nyc.gov