



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Keeping the Faith

Sunday, July 8, 2018

Bob Bradley

- 2 Timothy 4:1 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;
- 2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
- 2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
- 2 Timothy 4:4 And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
- 2 Timothy 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.
- 2 Timothy 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.
- 2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:
- 2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

As I begin tonight I want you to think about something as we start. As you read these chapters, the Apostle Paul is writing a letter unto a young man. A young man by the name of Timothy, a young man that there is no doubt the Apostle Paul loved him very much. No doubt, Timothy loved the Apostle Paul very much. Probably Timothy was led to Christ of the efforts of the Apostle Paul and his ministry.

Paul goes everywhere in that part of the known world. If you ever studied about some of the missionary journeys that he went on, it covered miles and miles...establishing churches, preaching and teaching and doing a lot of things. There was a time when you read the scriptures that there were a lot of people with him. There were a lot of people that went with him. There were a lot of people that were around him. There were a lot of people that supported him. However, when you get here, it is all different now. You can read here, as you read this story, there is only one fellow here now, with him, and that is Luke. Everybody else is gone. Here Paul is sitting in a dungeon in Rome, probably could have been a few hours, I know it was just a short time that he was going

to be offered. He was going to be killed for his testimony. Now they were all gone. They all had forsaken Him. They all had gone different ways.

Do you know what I am glad of? I am glad that God never leaves us. Men may leave us. Men may not want to be in our company. Men may move on but do you know what God will never do? In the darkest hours of life, God will always be there. People will let you down. People will forsake you. People will run off and leave you. They will do all kinds of things. However, are you glad that we serve a God today that will never do that. He will never leave us. He will never forsake us. He will be with us always even unto the end. You can count on that tonight. Think about that just for a few moments. As we talk, keep that thought in your mind.

Here he is in a dungeon. It is probably cold and we know it is. As we read the story, no doubt, in my mind, he is probably cold, it is probably damp there. He has all kinds of issues going on. However, he wants to do something here in his last hours of life, his last days of life. He wants to tell Timothy something that was going to help him. If you read the story here about Timothy—I have said this here many times—Timothy was a young man. I do not know how old he was when he started here but he was a fellow here that no doubt, and we know that he had some youthful problems. We know that God had called him into the ministry. We know that he was very useful to the Apostle Paul. We also know that he had some issues.

Every young person, every young Christian, every young pastor, every young preacher; we all have had problems. We need people to help us and to instruct us and help us along the way.

There is no doubt in my mind that Timothy needed some help. Do you know what Paul knew? Paul knew the help here that Timothy needed. Do you know what he was going to do? He was going to encourage him right before he died. The Bible says here...

2 Timothy 4:1 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;

Do you know what he is doing here? He is calling the God of heaven into view. He is calling to the God of heaven; he says, "Look, Timothy. The God of heaven is watching. The Lord Jesus Christ is watching."

I thought today as I was driving down the road, do you know what God is doing? God is watching. I would to God today, that every conversation that we had that we would understand that not only is God watching, but God is listening. He knows tonight what is going on.

He says I charge you Timothy. He is bringing a command here just like a general would give unto his soldiers. He is charging him. He is giving Timothy a command. He is doing this right before the God of heaven, and before the Lord Jesus Christ. He says here...

2 Timothy 4:1 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;

Do you know what Paul wants Timothy to understand? He wants Timothy to understand that there is coming a day that the secrets of men's hearts are going to be revealed. There is coming a day when Christians are going to stand before the judgement seat of Christ. Do you know when that is? That is at His appearing. Paul says, I charge you. God of heaven is looking. Jesus Christ is looking. He is the One that is going to appear. He is the One that is judging the secrets of men's hearts.

Listen. We are not going to get anything by Him.

I used to work for a fellow. He was my boss. He drank like a fish. He cussed like a sailor. However, when his wife was around he was as meek as a mouse. He had her fooled. Do you know what he did not have? He did not have the God of heaven fooled. God was listening and God was watching. God one day, not only will judge him but He will judge me too. Amen!

2 Timothy 4:1 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;

That is those that are alive. That is what the word *quick* here means. Those who are spiritually alive.

Listen. When Jesus comes in the clouds, He is not going to judge those that have died in sin at that time. He is not going to do that. When He appears in the clouds, at His appearing; do you know what He is going to do? We know He is going to come and get us. We know He is going to take us and we are going to go to the judgement seat or the bema seat.

Listen. There are going to be some rewards passed out at that time. If you have been faithful while you have lived here—read 2 Corinthians 2 or 3, it will tell you what I am talking about.

Listen. When we stand before Almighty God, we are not going to be judged on whether we are saved or lost. If you are at the judgement seat of Christ, then you are going to be saved.

Listen. What you have done in this life, if you have been faithful in what God has called you to do, you have lived for Him, and lived by faith and did what He said; then you are going to receive some crowns.

Listen. I may not wear a crown in this life but thank God there is going to be a day that we are going to wear a crown. That excites me. Does it you? I appreciate that.

Not only is He going to judge the quick, those that are alive, those that are saved, at His appearing; but He is also going to judge the dead. There is coming a time at the end of the millennium, there is coming a time—we are going to have the rapture. We are going

to have seven years of tribulation. We are going to have a thousand-year reign of Christ according to Revelation 20. Then do you know what is going to happen when you read on over a few verses; do you know what you are going to find? There is going to be a time that God is going to call. He is going to call. There is going to be a time—John said, “I saw a great white throne. He that sat upon the throne from whose face the heavens and the earth fled away and there was found no more place for them.” John said, “I saw the dead both great and small stand before God and the books were opened. Another book was opened which is the book of life and they were judged out of those things that were found in the books according to their works. They were not found in the book of life.” Do you know what happened to them? They were cast alive into a lake of fire.

You are not going to get past Jesus. You are going to stand before Him one day, somewhere. He is going to look you face to face. Amen! That is for all of us. Every one of us here tonight, everybody listening to me tonight, you are going to see one day, face to face. You may curse His name here. You may blaspheme His name here. You may think you are smarter than He is. You are going to get by. That is the wrong attitude because it is not going to happen. That is just what the enemy wants you to think. He wants you to think that you are special. That is what he wants you to think. You are special even though that God says you must be born again. Do you know what the enemy wants us to think sometimes? He wants us to think that we are different, we are special, and we have our own thing worked out.

Listen. There was a song many years ago, about me and God has our own thing worked out. Do you know what? I never did like that song then and I still yet do not like it today. Listen. You and God do not have your own thing worked out. Jesus Christ where He came, suffered, bled and died on a cross that we could all be saved. If we are going to go to heaven, we are all going to go the same way. We have been all saved the same way. You are not any more special to God than I am. If you are going to heaven it is going to be because you have been born again, not because you are somebody special. That is not the message, but that is a good message. Is it not?

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

Here is the charge. He says, “Preach the Word.” Amen! We need preachers to preach the Word today. More than anything else, more than I need to know Greek and Hebrew, more than I need to know how to diagram or put a message together, more than I need three points in a poem, more than I need all of that—do you know what preachers need to do today? We need to proclaim the Word of Almighty God because it is the Word of Almighty God that saved me. If you are saved tonight, it is the Word of God that saved you. It is going to be the Word of God that is going to change this world. It is not going to be because we have this or did that. People needs to hear the Word of Almighty God. We need preachers that will stand and teach the Word of God and preach the Word of God. We need preachers that will stand and tell people that

hell is hot. That hell is real. You are going to go there if you do not repent of your sins. We need preachers to preach about the blood. It will wash away your sins. It will save you. We need preachers to preach the gospel more than anything else. In this generation that we are living in, we need the Word of God preached.

Not only that but also...

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

Do you know what that means? Anytime you can preach, then preach. It does not make any difference if you are on a street corner, Walmart, or going down the road in your car, or if you are work; anytime you have an opportunity to preach somebody, then you preach to them Timothy. It does not matter where you are at. It means to be ready, to be prepared.

One thing back in our early ministry that I did not do, I was not very well prepared. I would read every now and then. I would read if I had an appointment to preach. However, if I did not have a place to go then I did not do much reading and I did not do much preparing. Do you know what I figured out after a while? If I was going to preach I needed to be ready. I needed to be prepared. I needed to fill this guy up with the Word of God. If I was going to share the Word of God with people then I needed to know what it was and I needed to have it burning down within.

I am glad of something tonight. God will help us. God will instruct us. We can preach His Word and the Word of God will change this world if people will just believe it. amen! To reprove. Preacher, tell me about heaven. Preacher, tell me how good I am. Tell me all of that. However, we do not like to be reprovved. Do we? Not one amen! That is truth! Every one of us needs to be, at times in our life, we need to straighten it up.

My dad many years ago, all the time we were home, we lived on a farm and he was rough and tough. He raised us boys that way. There would be times that I would think that I would know more than what dad would know. There would be times in my life—I am going to tell you something old man, the next time you say something to me, I am going to take you out and wear you out.

Do you know what I found out in life—and I tried that a few times. It did not work very well. Do you know what happened to me? He took me out behind the building and he wore the ground out with me. Do you know what he was doing all the time? He was laughing. Do you know why? Because he had been there. He was not a very big man. However, he had a left hand and he could hit you with it before you would even see it coming.

There are times in my life, in my Christian life—do you know what I need God to do and what God has done? He has taken me out behind the shed and wore me out. Do you know dad wore me out? Because I needed it. I needed to be able to respect him and the authority that he had.

Do you know why God corrects us? He wants us to respect Him and the authority He has over our lives. Amen! If you do not respect God, if you do not let Him have right a way in your life; you are not going to live for him. Amen!

The Bible says this. Reprove and rebuke. Rebuke is a little stronger than reprove. Rebuke is where you are getting down to the nitty gritty.

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

Do you know what that means? Be patient with people. It means to be patient with people. To be patient as you are rebuking people, as you are reproofing people, as you are preaching the Word of God; he says to be patient with people. Do you know why that he says that? Do you know what God was with the Apostle Paul? God had been very patient with him.

Listen. I do not know how old Paul was when he got saved, for sure. However, do you know what I do know? I know that God had been very patient with him over the years. Do you know what I know in my life? I know even after I got saved, God has been very patient with me. I have not always walked as I needed to walk. I have not always talked as I should have talked. However, I am glad that there was somebody come along that would rebuke me, somebody come along that would reprove me and do it in a way that would give me some time to repent.

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

Do you know what he is saying here? It is telling Timothy to preach the Word. Be instant in season and out of season. Reprove and rebuke with all longsuffering and doctrine. Do you know what doctrine means? Doctrine means the truth. Preach the Bible. Preach the Word. Preach the truth. Do not preach what you think about the Bible. Do not preach what men may say about the Bible but preach true doctrine. Preach the Word. Do you know what that will do? That will straighten up our lives. Amen! That is just like being taken out back and being wore out. That what the Word of God does for us. amen!

There are times in life that I come to church—and you guys do not know this, and you do not need to know it—however, I have got a few willow limb marks on my back. Deb did not hit me. But do you know what God has done? God has straightened us up. God speaks. Sometimes we let things go. Sometimes we want to bury our head in the sand. However, there is a time that we cannot do that any longer.

As I have said this before, I do not have time for games anymore. I do not have time for people to play games anymore. I do not have very long left here. I plan on sky diving when I am 90, although I may not make it there. Do you know what I am not going to do anymore? I am not going to waste anymore time.

Your family, my family, your children, my children and this community is counting on us. This community is counting on us. This community is counting on Campbell Chapel. It is high time that we get our heads out of the sand that we wake up and understand that there was a time...we could open the doors and people would come. It is not that way anymore.

Do you know what we need to be doing? Just as Jesus said, we need to be going into the highways and byways and compelling people to come to His house.

Listen. You guys get them here. I will preach to them, I promise you that. You go out and work and labor. You go out and get them here. That is your job and that is my job. Amen! You want me to do it all. It does not work that way. You have your responsibility and I have mine. You get them here and I will preach the truth to them. When I am no longer preaching the truth to them and to you; show me where I am wrong and that will be my last time here. Amen! Truth is everything. That is a long way from what I wanted to talk about.

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

We have arrived there in the church world today. We have arrived in a world today that no longer wants to hear sound doctrine. Do you know what sound doctrine means? It means something that is healthy, something that is wholesome. Do you know what that means? That means the Word of God.

Do you know what you can do today? You can tell people all kinds of fairy tales. You can tell them they are going to slip into heaven. You can tell people that their only thing they need to do is just do the best they can. You can tell people that God is going to overlook their sin. Do you know what they will do? They will pat you on the back. They will praise you. They will take you out to eat. They will do all kinds of things for you. They will bake you cakes. They will do all kinds of things for you. Do you know why? It is because we have come to the place in society where men will no longer listen to sound doctrine. Do you know what they want? They want somebody to tickle their ears.

I thought about this before. Sometimes, when you get an inner ear infection; do you know how your ears itch on the inside and you would just like to take...something and get in there and dig around. Listen. That is how people have gotten in our world today spiritually. They want somebody to scratch their ears. They want somebody to tell them fables. They want somebody to tell them something that has nothing to do with doctrine.

Listen friend. We need people, we need to stand, in the day we are living in. Listen. People do not want to hear the truth, but yet it is our responsibility to preach the truth.

I am not being judgmental when I say this. There are people who do not want to come to Campbell Chapel because they do not want to listen to me. Truth! Do you know what? The pastor that was here before me; there were people who would not come to hear him because he preached the truth. The pastor that will be after me; there will be people who will not come because of who that individual is. Do you know why? It is because not everybody wants to hear the truth. Not everybody wants to hear the truth. Amen! Do you know what? They want to blame it on everything. They will make up stories. They will make them up as they go. Some of them amazes me anymore. If I want to get a good laugh, all I have to do is sit around a few days, and I will get a letter in the mail or somebody will send me something that I get a laugh out of.

Listen. We need people that will preach the truth. We need to stand for truth.

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

Sound, healthy, wholesome preaching, he said, there is going to be a time when people are going to be like that.

Listen. We have arrived there today. We are there today. Most people—I thank God that you people do want to hear and I know I am the worst pastor that you guys have ever had. I understand that. I know that beyond a shadow of a doubt. I do know one thing, friend, what I am telling you is truth. I know what I have told you is truth. I do not have to back up on that. I do not have to apologize with that. If you do not like it you can lump it.

Listen. We have a short amount of time, and it is time that we get on the ball. It is time that we leave it all on the field. We do not need to be sitting on the porch whittling. We need to be out in the world working, and persuading our children, our grandchildren, and our neighbors, and our co-workers and the people at Speedway to get right with God. Your children are dying. Amen! Some of them young, and some of them old.

I ran into a fellow the other day, he is probably forty years old. It was sad to talk to him a minute because of the opinion he had of his family.

My dad before he got saved, do you know what he looked at. My dad looked at some of our family, and some of the people he worked with on the job that did not live right. It was a big problem for dad. All the years from the time I got saved until forty-five days or so before he died; it was always a problem for dad. Do you know what? I could not argue with him. He would tell me, "You are telling me to get saved, and these people go to church, and they preach. They are deacons. They have all kinds of positions. You are telling me to get saved and they are doing this?" I could not argue with him. Do you know what I had to do? I had to agree with him. It is hard for people to get over that sometimes. It is very difficult for people to get over that.

I have never said one time, I was a perfect parent. I know I am not, or a grandparent. Deb will tell you for sure that I am not a perfect husband. Amen! Here is one thing I do know. I do know one thing. There is a way that we can live that our life and our children and our grandchildren will respect us. amen! Should say amen on that guys.

There is a way that we can live that we teach our children and grandchildren to sin. Amen! Truth. That is a different message.

2 Timothy 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Paul endured a lot. Do the work of an evangelist. Timothy was a young man. Timothy be evangelistic. Timothy if you are pastoring, if you are preaching to saved people; be evangelistic. Do you know what that means? Tell people they need Jesus. Tell people they need to be born again. Tell people about the gospel message of Jesus Christ. That is what we need more of today too.

Everybody wants to line up everybody today. Preachers that have never pastored, preachers that knows nothing about pastoring churches; but you listen to them sometime and they are always trying to line up somebody else. Do you know what we need today? We need preachers that will not only preach the true doctrine, doctrine that is sound; we need preachers that will be evangelistic. We need preachers that will take the gospel message, the death, the burial, the resurrection of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world. Do you know what God will do?

Listen. We get them to come in and they get saved and if they truly get saved, do you know what God will do? God will straighten them up. Do you know what He can do? He can change our lives.

Listen. It does not matter how old we get in our Christian lives, we still yet have things that we need God's help with to get rid of. Amen! You do too. You do not have a halo on your head. You have issues. You have things you need to be working on. amen!

2 Timothy 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

“For I am not ready to be offered...” if you read—if I can remember correctly—in the book of Numbers 15, God was instructing the children of Israel, when they go to where they were going, when they go the promised land; He was instructing them on how to do an offering. It did not matter whether it was an offering of a ram—get this—or a sheep, or a goat; there was a way they prepared it.

2 Timothy 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

The last thing that they did to the offering, after they inspected it, after they put it on the altar, after it was all done; the last thing they did before it was offered before it was

burned up and gone was that they took a drink offering. They took wine, put it in a glass and poured it out.

Get this. Here is a message for you. There is no doubt in my mind that Paul has got on his mind that his whole life, he has offered it. Just like in the Old Testament, they were to take the animal and put it on the altar and offer it to God; Paul says, I am now ready to be offered. I have put my life on the altar. I have poured—get this—my life out. I have poured it all out and now I am ready to be offered. The last thing that was done was the drink offering. Paul says, I am now ready to be offered.

Listen. Do you know what he is saying? Lord, I have done it all. Lord, I have offered it all. Lord, I have not held anything back. Lord, you know that. Lord, I am now ready to be offered—get this—and the time of my departure is at hand.

When you read that phrase in the original, do you know what it will tell you? It brings out the idea of three or four-word pictures, or picture words... One of them is about a ship that is tied up to a dock. The ship is loosened. Someone goes over and loosens the morning ropes and the ship starts sailing to a different country. Do you know what was about ready to happen to Paul? The Lord Jesus himself was about ready to loosen the ropes on the ship that was tied up here in this life and he was about ready to sail over to a greater country.

It also brings out the idea—when you look at the word *depart*—it brings out the idea of animals that has worked all day. They have worked and worked. It brings out the idea that you are going to turn them loose now and let them rest. Do you know what Paul did? Do you know what he did? He worked and worked for the gospel. Now his day was done. His labor was over here. He was going to be set free. He was going to be able to rest awhile.

It also brings out the idea of a tent. You have pitched your tent here and you are getting ready to move to another country. Do you know what you have to do first? You have to take down your tent. That is what the word *departure* means.

2 Timothy 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

I am getting ready to leave here Timothy. I am getting ready to leave this here. They are getting ready to loosen the ropes on me, Timothy. I am going to sail on to my eternal home. I am going to take my tent that is here Timothy and I am going to tear it down. I am going to move to my...home Timothy. I have worked. I have labored day in and day out.

When you read the book of 2 Corinthians 11, you can read about some of the things he endured. He was shipwrecked. He was beaten. Amen! He was in perils of the deep. He spent a day and night in the deep. You could go on and on with all the things he suffered. They stoned him and left him for dead. He left it all on the field, guys. Now he is ready to depart. He says...

2 Timothy 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

Get this. Baptist people are good at fighting. Amen! Paul was good at fighting for the faith. That is what we need to be good at. If we are going to fight about something, let us be good fighting for the faith. Let us stand up and take a stand for faith.

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

It brings out the idea of a runner on a track. Paul could see the finish line from where he was at. Just like a runner that has been running lap after lap...and he is getting ready to see the finish. He has it in view. Paul said, "I have finished my course..." Lord, I have played by all the rules. I have kept the faith. I have worked and labored and kept all the rules, Lord. I have kept the faith. Those things you have instructed me to do, the things that you have asked me to do and instructed me to do, your Word tells me to do Lord; I have obeyed all the rules. Amen!

Are we doing that? Are we abiding by the rules that God has set down? We should be.

2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Do you love the Lord tonight? Are you looking for Him to come? If you are you are going to get a crown. That is right. Is not that awesome! Me and you, get a crown. We are going to get a crown. We are victors and we are going to get a crown. Isn't that going to be awesome?

People like us who are worthless, really. When you look at the whole scheme of things. Do you know what God could have done? God could have called butterflies to preach if He wanted to. He could have caused apple trees to sing if He wanted to, but He did not. Do you know what He did? He chose me and you to live by faith, fight the good fight of faith, to obey the rules, to leave it all on the field. Do you know what we could do? I mean this. We can see the finish line. It is not very far out there. It is not very far out there today.

When we look around today, just today, if you watched the news today; you have to know that Jesus Christ is coming very soon. We are seeing the ground work with China. This is a different message. We are seeing the ground work with China. China today, has two hundred million, foot soldiers they can put on the battlefield.

If you read the book of Revelation, you can read about that number. It is in there. You can read about them coming. The kings of the east marching towards Jerusalem. Do you know what they do? The Bible says they dry up the Euphrates. Do you know what

they do? When they come through that place marching towards Jerusalem, the whole place is just devastated and dried up. We are seeing things set in motion today that with spiritual eyes we can see the finish line.

If you are not saved tonight, whether you are here, in your home, a hospital room, driving down the road in your car, or on the other side of the world taking care of some sheep; if you do not know Jesus Christ, you need to get to know Him. He is the best thing that could ever happen to you. It does not matter how bad you have been. It does not matter how you smell tonight. It does not matter where you have been in life. It does not matter how many times you have messed up and sinned and blown up. It does not matter. He died to save you. He died to save sinners. Do you know what you and I are? We are sinners. Jesus died to save us.

If you are not saved, it would be a great time for you to call upon the Lord. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins. Get ready to meet Him. We are going to meet Him one day. We are going to meet Him. We are going to see Him face to face one day. It may be today.

Come and pray—