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Acts 20 verses 26 and 27.

As we come first to hear the word of god read. Let us stand.

X 20 verses 26 and 27. Therefore, i testify to you this day that i am innocent of the blood of all men. For, i've not shunned to declare to you. The whole council of god. And then the sends this reading of god's inspired and inherent word. Please be seated.

Excuse me. This is a very searching text. Is searching and for that reason. Uh, in some ways unpleasant and difficult. To prepare to preach. And, If you have been considering it with me as we get ready. Perhaps you have found it also thus to hear And it is not bashful about being.

Searching and serious. Because he begins verse 26 and for those of you who are memorizing, it probably should have given you just a whole sermon text. It's not that long. But he begins with verse 26. Therefore, i testify to you this day. That i am innocent of the blood.

Of all. That i'm cleared. Of the blood. Of all. Now, if you were just overhearing a public conversation. And you heard someone say that? In their conversation, you would get the idea that whatever was going on at that next table over or over there on that corner and or by that tree or that park mentor wherever it was.

Whenever is going on there. It was serious. They're talking about being innocent or clear of blood. Somebody. Is at least. In danger or has been in danger of perishing and probably some have died. There's been blood that has been spilled. This is. A. Searching and serious. Passage. And indeed, there are two types of blood or two types of death or two types of parising that are considered here.

The, the one that you probably immediately think of is with respect to the second death. Because there is a lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels, but it is also the second death for those who continue as children of the devil. Those who continue in adam, those who continue in themselves and never by faith in jesus christ, come into him who is the last Adam him in whom there is life.

They never come out of themselves. They never come out of pushing down on the glory of god, they never come come out of exchanging. The truth, for the lie, they never come out of worshiping the creature. Namely in most cases themselves rather than the creator who is blessed forever on men.

And there is a second death And there are many. There are many. Who go to that second death, many even in the church. Matthew 7. The lord jesus says to me, not everyone who says to me, lord, lord will enter the kingdom of heaven. But in that day, there will be many.

Who say and then he gives three. Lord, in your name, did we not? And he will say, depart from me. I never knew you, you. Workers, without the law. Your law less not having the law. Workers. And so there are many who are perishing of the second death, but even among the church, The entire word of god has given to us for our good.

For our love of god, for our love of brother, for our love of neighbor for our service, in this world. And the lord does give us chastening. He whips us. So that we are in pain. Whenever we need it. As much as we need it. Even to the point of death.

There are things that believers do and keep on doing. That the lord kills them for even though they are going to live forever. We have an example of that almost every lord, say we don't always read all the way to the end of first corinthians 11. But remember at the end of first corinthians 11, the lord tells them that he is judging them in time, so that they will not be judged along with the world, they were blaspheming christ.

By thinking individualistically and selfishly, and looking for something other than jesus at his table, And looking for their own interests by themselves and not waiting for one another at his table. And this was so profaning to christ and his worship and god. That he was striking members of the Corinthian church ill and killing some And the apostle, at the end of first corinthians 11, says there's a whole bunch of things that i'll tell you when i get there.

But here's one that you need to know ahead of time. In case i'm delayed, you better get this instruction on the Lord's supper. List, he implies. I'd be guilty of your blood. If more should die, then otherwise would have For profaning, the table. The christian ministry is serious business, the The faithful acquitting, literally acquitting oneself to be a worker unashamed in the word rightly dividing the word of truth.

And therefore, Of hearing that word as well. Is serious business. This language of being innocent to blood, it really goes back to ezekiel 3 and Ezekiel 33 where ezekiel is told that he is being called as a watchman. Now, he had one primary minister, he he is not talking there.

Uh, he's talking there about a specific warning ministry about a specific judgment that is coming for specific sins at that time. In the life of the nation of judah. As far as ezekiel was concerned leading up to and then during the exile, The language that is used here that that harkens back to or or remembers that language of the watchman.

This is much broader concerning the whole council of god and lord helping us. We will get there eventually in the sermon But one thing that, Uh, that is common to both, is that there is a deadly serious word here. And so, that's the first way that we will consider this passage These two verses this morning and afternoon.

Is that jesus is saving people from perishing. Both everlastingly eternally And, From being judged by god, in a way that removes them from this world temporally. Jesus is saving people from perishing through a deadly serious worked. He is saving people from parishing the second half of verse 27, but will Will take it in the second place before we do the first half of verse 27.

And he is saving people. Comparison by a fully covered word, a completely given And then a completely preached and talked and then i completely heard and heated. Word. And then in the third place, circling back to that first part of verse 27, for when he says, for, i have not shuned.

To declare to you. Jesus is saving people from perishing. By a boldly declared. Were something that the apostle often prayed for something that we saw the apostles praying for last lord's day in the sabbath school as we were, A considering. What the church is for and a big part of the church.

Uh, church's purpose. A great part of the church's purpose is to boldly declare that deposit that is entrusted to them. For it is appointed and ordained by the lord, to be a pillar and buttress of truth in the world. Which, of course we can see. Who else has truth and if the church who alone has, it does not boldly declare a who will It will not suddenly be discovered and certainly not suddenly heated.

By the natural man. Who is without God and without hope in the world, because he is alien. To the household of god. In the church. And so a boldly declared word that will be the second or the, the last point. The third Way that we will be considering This passage first on this deadly serious word and thinking back to ezekeiel 3 and Ezekiel 33 there really are four possibilities here.

When he says, therefore i testify to you this day that i am innocent of the blood of all, he's using language that the lord warned Ezekiel with, before he sent Ezekiel to warn Judah and the people of Judah. Which was that? There are four possibilities one. Is that Ezekiel would be given the war word, but he wouldn't tell it to anybody.

Then everybody dies. Because the lord in that situation, he likened it to a city that is about to be attacked and there are watchmen on the wall of the city and they are the ones who can see the enemy coming up. That is about to slaughter everyone in the city.

And if the watchman doesn't say anything, Then it's just a massacre.

And surely this has been the case. And far too many congregations. Far too many households. Where the people file into the pews and out of the pews every day. And in and out, and in, and out. And that one point, they're going to file out of this world. And into eternity.

And it is just going to be a slaughter. Because the word was not preached. It was not christ's man speaking christ's word independence upon christ's grace to christ's people who are hearing and dependence of the same grace. It was just doing church. A bunch of TED talks, a bunch of how we can learn from the bible, how to eat healthy, or be wealthy, or have better relationships or live our best life now.

Which by a definition means you live your worst life forever.

And they go as sheep to the slaughter. In this case, that's wolves to the slaughter. Or goats. The wolf was in the pulpit. So that's one. Possibility. That the word. And in this case, the whole council of god, and that's what we're really talking about. Lord helping us we'll get there in the second point.

Would not be declared at all and everyone dies. The second possibility is The word is declared, but the people don't hear it. They don't hear it because they don't come. They come when it's convenient and they come for part of it.

But for one reason or another, they don't hear it. And you know, you don't even have to be absent not to hear. You can sit there. The easiest way not to hear the word preached is to sit there in judgment upon the word that you hear. Which is just another reason to have a faithful ministry.

Because you do have to hear and compare to the truth. You have to receive with gladness like the Bereans did and you have to go back and search the scriptures and see that these things were so like the marines did, and if you don't have a faithful ministry, If every single Lord's day, every single Wednesday, Every single time you have your elder, your minister in your house opening the word of god with you.

You open the bible later and you can't for your life. See how he came to that conclusion? Or they're all these other things? The just weren't treated. Eventually. You sit under the preaching and the teaching you think is this, right? Is it all here? What, what are the important parts that are being missed?

That's hard. So one of the reasons we don't like to go on vacation, Or if we do, We scout where we're going to worship. Before we go because it's it's very difficult. At least, my kids can look over and see if dad is nodding. That is remembering to nod.

So that his kids will be helped to sit under the word as worshipers. But if you're spending the whole time trying to discern or judge, if this is right, you're not going to be receiving the word of god. Well and that is the easiest way not to hear. The warning.

If you're sitting there thinking boy this is equal guy, he's over serious. Or this, this paul guy. Man, he's talking about this stuff like his life and death, but You know. There are lots of other guys who call themselves apostles and there are lots of ways of reading this passage.

And there are lots and lots of whatever. I'll go home and google. Maybe i'll find something that fits what i already wanted to believe which is the primary use of google for research. Especially in theological things. So that's the second. Second possibility, the word is declared, but you don't hear it.

Then what happens? You die. The watchman said. The barbarians are at the gates. There's a well. I don't know about that watchman. Did he say the barbarians are at the gates? He must admit the delivery man or something. There's a third. Possibility. The word is declared and you hear it but you don't hear it.

You hear him say the barbarians are at the gates. Anything. Oh, that's very interesting. You might even lead your family in the discussion about barbarians and gates and all the different kinds of gates there are and which barbarians these are and what weapons they've had and what ages and all the different escape routes that you could have out of a city and which one would be the best and, you know, each one argues for their own but none of them take any of them.

There's lots of hearing, there's lots of consideration, but there's no application. There's intellectual knowledge but there's not experiential knowledge. What happens if the word is declared and you hear it? You're there. Lord's. Good morning. Lord's a night. Wednesday evening set of school. Anything that your elders produce for you because they have the responsibility of preaching and teaching to you, The whole council of god in public and from house to house.

And the big part of that responsibility lies on those. Whose labor is in preaching and teaching but the responsibility as a whole fall falls upon the elders as a group, just like the ephesian elders are here as a group. You hear it all you talk about it. All you think about, you agree with it.

All you love it. All Well, as men. Call love. What is love without doing? The figment of the imagination. Temporary inflaming of the feelings. You'll love us thinking and love is feelings. But love is doing

Did our very intricately discussed barbarian, invasion, and escape household. So they make it. No, they died. They're probably interrupted in their discussion. About lethal, barbarians by leap barbarians, who came to show them what lethal means.

And then there's another possibility. The word is declared. And so the watchman is innocent of blood in the last three of the four. The watchman is innocent to the blood The word has declared. And the word is heard. And the word is heated. Because you don't only say, The watchman is innocent to my blood, you say, God gave me the watchman because that is how he saves me.

And so i'm going to respond to god by believing what his word teaches and doing what his word commands, i will trust him because he is saving my life. I will be. Like that confederate soldier. Who having been captured as a prisoner of war was interrogated. And asked how it is that general jackson.

Gets them to march. So far in such weather through the dead of night because that northern officer can't get his men to do the same thing. He wants to know the secret of the motivation. And i can't quote it exactly. But the gist of it is the soldier responds.

What do you mean? Get us to General jackson is trying to save our life.

Jesus is saving your life with the bible. He is saving your life eternally. And he is saving the time that you have in this world. For knowing him and enjoying him and bringing him glory, and being an instrument of good to your church and to your family and to your neighbor, and to your society.

And not profaning his name so that god doesn't smite you from this world even though you were saved for eternity. Jesus is saving your life with the bible. He is innocent. Of the ephesian elders blood and the ephesian church members blood. And hope well. Elders, blood and hope well members blunt.

Now, as the apostle told this to the Ephesian elders, it was true for them first, wasn't it? They are the they're the ones that he's talking to at the time. Therefore i testify to you this day that i am an innocent of the blood of all And he does mean the whole congregation in Ephesus.

There was nowhere that he had been so long and conducted such a ministry as we have we have considered him conducting and he does mean the whole congregation. But in this final interview, As he says, I know that you all. We'll see my face no more. Therefore, i testify that i'm innocent of the blood of all He especially means then.

The apostle Paul is innocent. Of the efficient elders. Blood They have to believe. With the word of god teaches for themselves. They have to do. What the word of god commands themselves? Before they even begin to think about whether in their office as elders in back in the in the church in ephesus.

Before they even, Begin to think about whether they're going to be innocent of the blood of the members of the church and emphasis they need to think about whether or not they are innocent of their own blood. That's how it works in in Ezekiel 3 and Ezekiel 33. He says, if you warned them And they don't turn you'll be innocent to their blood but they will be responsible, they will die for their own sin.

Their blood will be upon their own head.

Paul was innocent of these Ephesian elders. Blood would they be innocent of their own? The answer is not all of them. Because by the time we get to the end of this conversation or the end of this speech, Paul's going to tell them that. I know that after my departure Not only are savage, wolves going to come in among them, but they're going to be elders.

Who arise from within them. Saying things. That are unique. Because instead of following christ and following the the words of christ and the lips of the rest of the elders, they're going to be particular elders and particular ministers who get a following for themselves and that's not the way, the church of jesus christ works.

We live in an age of widespread, interchange of information and we have such a disappointing and frightening thing now, as reformed celebrity preachers. But even among those who have some notoriety because they're they're preaching is recorded and you can hear it or see it, and their books are written and and you can use them and there's much that can be helpful.

There are those who have following

Well, not all of the elders and emphasis would be innocent. Of their own blood. And when they went back to Ephesus, then would these elders. Be innocent of their church members blood. Well, if if they wanted to be they have to They have to not shrink back from declaring the whole council of god.

And even if they fulfilled, their ministry is called and commanded With the members of the church in ephesus. Be innocent. Of their own blunt.

There's also application here in the household, isn't there? Because the congregation isn't the only place that the lord has sent. And appointed particular people. For a particular ministry in his word. The lord has appointed husbands. To love their wife. And Give themselves up for their own wife as christ has done for the church.

The husband cannot attun for his wife, but he certainly must point her to christ as her atonement. Christ prepares his bride. For the last day is the washing of water. With the word, then the way that our earthly christian husband prepares his bride for the last day is by use of the word in the home.

When they rise up and when they lay down, and when they go out, and when they come in, It's not just. Some good idea. Marriage is not just some good idea. Male and female is not just some good idea male headship, there's not just some good idea. One husband and one wife has not just some good idea.

These are institutions of god institutions of christ, you live in a cultural moment. Where the difference between the, the general agreement of society and something that is instituted by god. Is finally important. Well, bring application to that. Also, to the appointment of the husband. As a minister of the word to his wife, Not only in the home day by day, which we certainly mentioned But also a great obligation.

For being members as a household of a church, where the whole council of god is preached and taught in public and from house to house. If that is how jesus saves his people. Do not put your wife in the position. Of having to plead with you to take her somewhere where what jesus has appointed for her.

Is what she has. And if you have a wife, who does not like it, Do not have your her blood on your Head. By indulging, her instead of obeying jesus christ. And taking her to a Partial council of god. Church. Or uh, We don't really believe in that council of god stuff.

Church. Or no church at all.

Also parents with their children. Same thing. Love for souls and love for god. Demands a whole council of god ministry. One of the reasons that we do not have Whole council of god ministries whether in the church or in the home is that we don't love god and his glory, we don't trust his wisdom that everything he put in the word.

Everything he put in the bible was necessary, we don't trust his goodness that he will use it. Like he says he will. We think we are wiser, we think we are kinder. We go our own way. And therefore, we leave out things that he has said so that we can do and say other things ourselves

But it is god's counsel. That is given in the ministry of the word, verse 27, and another dreadfully sad reason. Is because we don't love people's eternal souls.

We might love the way they think about us. We might love. Uh, Their wallets. We might love their physical health.

But at the end of the day, when we hear I am innocent to the blood of all of you. For i've not shunned to declare to you. The whole council of god, we do not bring that. Into the application of. My church member, my wife, my child, my neighbor, my boss, my co-worker.

Is an eternal soul that is going to perish. Everlastingly. Or is going to come into the full enjoyment of the blessedness of god in union with jesus christ? Not having. A merely intensified joy, like the joys of this world, but having jesus's own joy, in him as he was created to be.

And as christ redeems people to be, And it's literally heaven or hell. Oh, that we would love the souls. That god has created. There's a deadly serious word. That's the first way that the lord jesus saves. The second way is a fully covered word. Thrive, not shunned to declare to you the whole council of god.

Now, the word counsel here describes And if you just get a gloss, Like, if you have a, a quick and dirty lexicon, You get something like, Um, Council advice. Uh, wisdom. Something, something like that. Uh, but the word Means something that has been. Considered and determined and is being delivered as As council, the the idea is that which has has been weighed and there's, there's a decision of of wisdom and what to say It's what most of us would do if we were wiser in, someone asked her opinion, or our advice.

And we said, let me think about that. And then we came back later. And said, here's my judgment. Which is another what another gloss that you might have for this work. Here's what i think. But this isn't just a man. Who has considered, what you need to hear? Is it This is the whole.

Council. Of god. There's a logic here. That applies. Uh, From second, Timothy 3 verse. 16 and 17. Many of you have memorized it. Every time i quote it. You know, having grown up in the age of Multiple translations. Yeah, that list of of four things that it's useful for is different in every one of them.

But all scripture is given by inspiration of god. Literally all scripture is breathed. Is god breathed? The apostle just takes two words and mashes them together. All scriptures. God breathed. And is profitable for doctrine for reproof for correction for instruction. And righteousness that the man of god, may be complete, Thoroughly equipped for every good work.

And in the context, Paul is joining to the Hebrew scriptures. The things that Timothy has heard and from whom he has heard, then if we were to go back a couple of verses, in Second Timothy 3. That is God, who decided he appointed for us, the times and boundaries of our living.

He decided when we would live and where we would live and how much of his verbal revelation would be available at that time, and he has given each of us according to his wisdom, exactly what we need and everything that we need. And he's not given us anything that we don't need because he is the one who decided what to say to us.

Every bit as much as if he was breathing out words like I am breathing out words, to you now. And you live in the age of a completed Bible and I minister in the age of a completed Bible. Who's been that way for some. 19. 40 issues.

Which means? That if that was true at the time, when Paul wrote Second Timothy, to Timothy it is most certainly true now. We need to hear whatever. God has gone to the lengths of breathing out. Isn't it a necessary conclusion from the fact that God breathed out a word?

That we would say that word must be necessary. There is nothing from the beginning of Genesis 1. To the end of revelation. 22 that is superfluous or unneeded extraneous material, extra historical data. It's the stuff that we. Least. See our need of, or perhaps even least understand. That requires then effort because God said it.

Whatever he has gone to the lengths of breathing out, it must be necessary. And it must be profitable.

It also must be true. That whatever we need for him to say he has said, so that the words he has given us equip us. For every Good. Work. The apostle here says, I testify to you this day. That I am innocent of the blood of all for. I've not shunned to declare to you.

The whole council of God, there was nothing that God gave me to tell you that. I shrank back from saying Every word that God gave me to tell you was necessary. So I said it, however, hard it was. However, unpleasant, however tempted in my flesh or your resistance. God said it, so I said it.

When I'm innocent of your blood. And if you didn't believe it, and if you didn't obey it, you can't blame God. You can't blame me. So you can certainly blame yourself.

As we mentioned earlier, this is not just a warning as in Ezekiel's case. Because the elder is not just a watchman, the language that's used here is a language of overseer. One. Who? Governs rules directs. Holds accountable. I'm going to read next week, therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.

That's the language of bishop, by the way. To shepherd the church of God which is the language of pastor. Lest we think that there are different offices that go by those two names? No, it's different aspects of the same office.

The pastor, then the shepherd. He tends and keeps and feeds and binds up. When injured and And watches out for, and All of these things are done by the ministry of the word.

If the watchman had awaited task of Ezekiel, Had a witty task, how much more Paul? How much more of these Ephesian elders? How much more the Christian? Husband and father the head of the household. How much more? Those of us who are called to give all of the Bible.

All of the bible preached and all of the bible taught. That we would give. Our congregation. A theological. Education. That they would know, the whole bible and be able to synthesize it. Not necessarily to the same depth, all of them. We all have different abilities. But you should not grow up in a church.

And not be taught what some part of the bible means. And how it connects to the rest. So that you are able to compare scripture with scripture and have god be his own interpreter of his own word to you through the bible. And not just taught, but preached.

Applied to your life. If you grew up in a ministry, that doesn't do that, Your blood. Is on your own head. You're you're under obligation to believe and do what god has commanded. What God has taught in his commended but your blood is also on your ministers, head. Your elders had.

Because they've been appointed by christ for that reason.

At the very least, it means that ministers. Don't leave anything out. Then they, Must not subtract from the word. Anything that they subtract would make them guilty of blood. That's, Very obvious from the passage, isn't it? If he says, therefore i testify to you to say that, i am not innocent to the blood of all men.

For i have not sung to declare to you the whole council of god, if we do shrink back from declaring the whole council of god, then we are guilty. Of the blood of those. Whom the lord has entrusted to us.

It also. Should give us. Great. Pause about adding anything. If we add, what is from us, To what is from christ. We dilute what christ has given, even if we say everything else, But we add that which is merely human that, which is our Merely our idea. Very best it dilutes from and distracts from the rest of what god says.

But the way we work is that, the dilutions and distractions of men always take over, it's like cancer. It has not happy to dwell. To coexist. Was a horrible. Series of bumper stickers. There's not happy to coexist with the whole council of god. No, when men begin to teach their own ideas, those ideas become front and center.

And that which god has taught and that which god has commanded receives to an recedes to an afterthought.

Now, if If such a ministry. Is not available where you are move. And if you are thinking of moving somewhere, And there is not such a ministry there, don't I don't care how good the job is. Can you imagine if the employer put that in the contract? You can move here and take this job, but you will be guilty of the blood of your wife and children.

Eternally speaking spiritually, speaking. If the employer put that in the contract, well, Praise god for such an employer, he must be praying hard for a good church where he lives

But how hard would your conscience have to be towards god and your heart have to be towards your family? To take a job in such a place. I don't care what the taxes, are don't care. The cost of living is. Well, the employer hasn't said it, but god has Now, you may be in many of us are In a place where such ministries just aren't available.

Well, then what are you doing? That it might be. You're crying out to god. Is it not your earnest flee? Oh lord. We are in in deadly, serious, lack and need. Give us a ministry of the whole council of god, preached and taught in public and from house to house.

And o lord, although we do not have it in the congregation. You have given us the bible, You have given us the whole bible. Oh, help us lord. We are, we are missing part of what you have appointed. But we have your word bless that to us. And help us with our children and especially our sons.

Since it is men, whom you raise up to be elders and ministers of the word. Boys. We live in an age. Now, this is hypothetic. Well, it's not entirely hypothetical, sadly. We we live in an age and at a time when There are not ministries like acts 20, 26 to 27, indeed, like like acts 20 verse 18.

Through 35. Are available. We're not putting you in sports. We are not teaching you instruments. We are not joining social clubs. We are going to cry out to god and disciple, boys, so that we can have elders and ministers for the next generation. So that it won't be a lie when we go to prayer meeting and we say, oh, god pour out your spirit and raise up, ministers and elders.

Just not my sons.

Then, if you have such a ministry, What are you doing with it? How are you? Organizing and ordering your, your households life? Your household schedule? Maybe you can't make it to everything. But there must be some way that you can. Avail yourself of it. You're no longer in the position where you, you send?

An eldest son or an eldest son and daughter to hear and pay such good attention and take such good notes that they can come back and repeat for the family. The whole thing you can download the thing, you can stream the thing. You can get marginally acceptable machine transcribed.

It's not the same.

But what are you doing to bring your household under The preaching and teaching of the whole council of god, do you know how difficult it is? In the current church context, we are not in. A five hours every day of paul teaching in the hall of tyrannos age. And people say, oh well we want new reformation.

Well, you know what, the Reformation looked like in Geneva. It looked like eight or nine or 10 sermons a week. And a day are fasting and prayer every wednesday.

What we're trying? We are trying. There's a plan to get through the entire bible. Genesis 1 to revelation 22 every seven or eight years. Why? Because then, if you grow up at Hopewell, Then you will have been through the entire bible. In the season that you were accumulating content.

And in the season where you were acquiring skill with what to do with that content and the holy spirit using it and helping you. You will have. Enact 20 verse 27. Fulfilled ministry. Because we are serious. About being innocent of the blood of all. It's not a rhetorical flourish when god says it.

That's why it's not just. A deadly serious word. Or maybe deadly saving word would have been. And a fully covered word, but a boldly declared word. Paul says, for i have not shrunk back from declaring to you. Or i have not shunned. To declare to you the health. Why would he do that?

If he knew. That this is how. God is saving eternally and even To some extent temporally. If he knew that he was under obligation to preach, and teach the whole thing and leave nothing.

Why would he, why would he have shrunk back from it? Who would do that? Well, there are lots of reasons that we would.

And in the analogous place in 2nd, Timothy that we were considering earlier, he goes on Another place where your chapter divisions don't serve you. Well, Because second Timothy, Three 16 through 17 and Really. 13 through 17. Yes, the the whole book and the whole bible. Flows. Right into chapter 4, verse 1, i charge you, therefore before god and the lord jesus christ, who will judge the living and the dead, his appearing, and his kingdom, preach the word.

Be ready in season and out of season, convince rebuke exhort with all along suffering. And all teaching. For the time we'll 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 then we'll turn air their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to fables.

But you be watchful in all things. Indoor afflictions do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. That's why, that's why. Paul would be tempted to shrink back. That's why Timothy is tempted to shrink back.

He talks about for the the time will come here in in chapter 4, he's made this reference already to chapter 3 and verse 1. But know this that in the last day's perilous times will come and and he's making application to Timothy which is a reminder that the last days has been going.

Since the new testament, it's not some recent something that has recently begun for us.

Why is he? Why would, why would he be tempted to shrink back? Because he would be tempted to listen to what the people want instead of what god and christ want. You see what he's saying here? Saying people They're not going to endure sound doctrine. They're not going to put forth the effort.

That it takes to do theology and hear theology, and put it together. They're not going to, they're not going to endure theological preaching. They'll come and tell you, they don't think it's breaching. In their judgment. But you don't listen to them, you listen to god before whom you stand and not just on the last day, god and the lord jesus christ, but especially in the public worship before god.

And before the lord jesus christ, So, Timothy can see. The, the other people in ephesus whether elders or congregants, who who come and tell him how, how there's too much and it's too theological. There's two. Applicational. Not only that but they they come and they tell him who they've gotten the pipeline.

You know, we could call someone else timothy

He says they will heap up for themselves. Teachers. According to their itching ears. They, they won't endure sound doctrine. They prefer their own desires. Over against what god and the lord jesus christ, have decided we should hear in teaching, and in preaching, it's not difficult to find out what god and christ want us to, to preach.

And to hear preached to teach and to, to hear taught. And to learn, here it is.

But they prefer their undesire as a heap up for themselves teachers. They prefers something more interesting. Verse 4. They will turn, oh, their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to fables or myths. The, the language means. A story or a doctrine, or a teaching that is very interesting and unique Or to use the buzzwords relevant.

You know what makes something relevant? Not that the congregation. Thought it really applied to their lives. Or found it very interesting. The fact that god said it makes it more relevant than anything else. Could. And therefore, we should be interested and therefore we should apply it to our lives.

That's what makes it relevant. That's what makes it interesting. What makes it worth enduring is that it is true.

Now, there is wisdom. There's wisdom to be involved. It's not always shrinking back. To be wise and judicious and careful. Look at the things that he tells timothy to do here. He doesn't just say Preach the word be ready in season and out of season. There are. Some people with whom the preaching is always out of season.

And you don't hold back just because they think so. He says, do you know what to do? Uh, with those who resist the word. You give them the word to help them. Stop resisting, convince rebuke, and exhort With all patients and all teaching. You teach them again. You preach it again.

They resist again. You don't get to be like peter counting up the number of times. Whether it's seven or 77 or 490. Because there's a blanket word all here. And it could be 490 thousand. And so long was the Lord, spares them to you and you to them, you keep teaching all all along suffering, all teaching.

Be patient. And you teach again and you teach again and they keep resisting and you exercise more patience and they don't understand and you teach them again from another passage in another way showing another connection for the same one over and over again. All patients. And all affliction, too.

Move down from verse 2, to verse 5. Being watchful and all things. Looking to see. What's going on with them? Are there any differences? Is there any improvement? Is there any deterioration? Evangelizing them, if you have to Evangelizing others, because you have to Fulfilling completing the ministry.

Don't shrink back. Don't shrink back. If you're a husband, if you're a father, if you're an elder, If you're a minister. And if they don't shrink back from preaching and teaching, don't you shrink back from hearing, Because your flesh. Your flesh will be your own. Rebellious congregates. That doesn't want to go.

Doesn't want to listen? Thinks, it's too theological. Doesn't want to hear it all once. It always to be positive and encouraging. Mortify, your flesh. Don't shrink back from hearing. The whole council of god don't shrink back from believing. The whole council of god, don't shrink back from a bang, the whole council of god.

And then also with yourself. All patients and all teaching. Because you'll be frustrated, won't you? The flesh is fierce and the flesh clings. It's hard to get over. You find yourself pursuing and unable you backslide. The exercise patience with yourself. You endure. Persist you hope in christ because christ is the one who's doing it.

Christ, is the one who saving

The lord has given us a completed bible because he is saving us. Here's a pointed messengers in the household because he's saving us, he's appointed messengers in his congregation because he's saving us. He is innocent of his blood. Are we innocent? Of others blood. And if he has given us, he is innocent of our blood.

Are we innocent? Of those of the blood of those to whom. Um, whom we have been to whom, we have been given A shepherds and overseers. If you are one in the house, if you are one in the congregation, And are we innocent of our own blood? Are we seeking to hear it all?

That we may seek to hear it all.

Because this is how Jesus is saving those. Who are dying? Those who are perishing? Through the ministry of his word. And then, let's pray.