

"IN SEASON; OUT OF SEASON"**Introduction**

1. Paul's last Epistle
2. What a body of divinity he gave us!
3. It is all inspired (chapter 3:16)

1. THE PRIME TASK OF THE CHURCH IS TO PREACH

- 1) What we are to Preach: "the word": the 3 R's;
 - (i) the RUIN: the tragic condition of mankind
 - (ii) the REDEMPTION: the power of Christ's blood
 - (iii) the REGENERATION: the Spirit's work of powerOBSERVE: Preaching which fails here is worthless
- 2) The Urgency of the Task: "I charge thee"
 - (i) the apostolic command: v.1
 - (ii) the divine Witnesses to our preaching: v.1
 - (iii) the persons and what they all face: v.1OBSERVE: What duty could compare with this?
- 3) See how we ought to measure our life here:
 - (i) "judge"
 - (ii) "quick and dead"APPLICATION: O let us be urgent Christians!

2. THERE WILL BE AGES WHEN OUR MESSAGE WILL BE WELCOME – AND WHEN NOT WELCOME

- 1) "In season – out of season": v.2
 - (i) Times of blessing + revival: Exx.
 - (ii) Times of deadness + coldness
- 2) Factors which explain the deadness:
 - (i) "will not endure...": v.3. Why not?
 - (ii) "lusts": v.3

(iii) "itching ears": v.3

- 3) The disastrous state which results:
 - (i) Men "turn away their ears"
 - (ii) "turned unto fables"
- 4) Paul prophesies here what we must expect:
 - (i) Times of blessing: "in season"
 - (ii) Times of declension: "out of season"
- 5) However, our duty remains clear:
 - (i) To preach the whole counsel of God#
 - (ii) Never to depart from the rule of scriptureAPPLICATION: Do not be taken in by "seeker friendly" Christianity – the price to pay is too high.

3. THE KIND OF PREACHING WE ARE COMMANDED TO GIVE: 3:15-17

- 1) Men need to become:
 - (i) wise
 - (ii) saved
- 2) The way to salvation is by "faith in Christ Jesus"
- 3) OBSERVE: Justification is absolutely crucial. Explain.
- 4) "All scripture" = the Bible everywhere
- 5) There are various emphases:
 - (i) doctrine: the Christian's creed
 - (ii) reproof: admonish where they go wrong
 - (iii) correction: putting life + creed right
 - (iv) instruction: practical applicationAPPLICATION: Do not be offended by these aspects of the preacher's work.

CONCLUSION

The temptation in our day is to become discouraged. But the darkest hour is before the dawn.

A touch of God's Spirit would stir sinners to cry out everywhere for God's mercy.

PSALM

74: 1 – 4

74: 19 – 23

77: 7 – 11