

“SPIRITUAL MINUTEMEN”

2 Tim 4:2

During the Revolutionary war the Colonists had a force called Minutemen: Ready for battle at a minute's notice. Good picture of ministry. Paul tells a young Pastor to be able to preach the word, you must have an attitude of readiness.

I. READY IN SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

A. Paul begins his instructions to a young Pastor with a military picture

1. *V1 I charge you... I command/order you; An order from a superior officer*

a. You be ready; Not the church/the ministry/the program – YOU!

2. In ministry - We are the equipment!

a. *Matt 10:9-10 "Don't take any money with you. 10 Don't carry a traveler's bag with an extra coat and sandals or even a walking stick.*

1. What's going on inside the pastor is the most important factor of ministry

b. *1 Tim 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*

B. One of the greatest factors in spiritual readiness is the word of God

1. *2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season.*

a. The word of God is what makes you ready for ministry

2. We must be filled with the word of God

a. *Ezek 3:1 ... "Son of man, eat what I am giving you--eat this scroll! Then go and give its message to the people of Israel."*

1. Personal spiritual health: Common in men that fail – I stopped reading my Bible/relationship with God

2. An element of guidance in ministry decisions

a. *John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

1. *I get asked for advice: Sometimes I wonder – Where did that come from?*

3. We must search out the wisdom of the Word of God

a. *2 Timothy 2:15 AMP Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.*

1. Basic Bible doctrines 2. Things that are false: So you know what is true, and how to answer

3. Revelation that will help & feed

II. READY IN AVAILABILITY

A. Paul likens ministry to military readiness

1. You need to be ready -- available at any time for an order for ministry

a. Being not ready/unavailable makes ministry unworkable/impossible

1. *2 Timothy 2:4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*

2. **This begins with an attitude of submission to God's will** *1 Sam 3:10 Samuel said, Speak for your servant is listening*

a. We decide in advance that we are available: For anything – at any time

1. You must bring your wife along with you – have her on board

b. *My philosophy: You don't say no to an opportunity*

B. The entanglements are often financial

1. Debt renders many men unable to respond to opportunities/needs

a. *Prov 22:7 The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender. I have to make this for payments*

2. Lifestyle appetites: *We have to live at a certain level or we aren't willing...*

3. Houses: We have to be able to rent our house out if we are called to go

III. READY TO MINISTER

A. Paul is writing to Timothy who is in a very difficult circumstance due to persecution

1. Ministry is not enjoyable or convenient at this time

a. *2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*

1. The picture is readiness despite convenience

2. Ready to minister despite personal feelings or favorable circumstances

a. Minister whether you feel like it or not/things are going good or not

3. The focus of ministry is other people: *V2 Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*

a. Because they need you to do right/they need to hear from God

B. This is what builds the work of God

1. *Needs are met/people are helped/disciples fulfill their potential*