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| TOPIC | I Give You The Charge | SPEAKER | Ps Low Kok Guan |
| THEME | 2 Timothy - Preach the Word | DATE | 21 & 22 May 2022 |



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| **INTRODUCTION** |
| 2 Timothy 4 presents the last words of Apostle Paul, and that is “I Give You The Charge”. Ps Kok Guan highlights three components of the charge - Preach The Word, Finish The Work and Love The Workers. This last letter was written by the apostle Paul and the keyword of this letter is “doctrine”. It is about standing firm in the faith by holding on to the Word of God. Here, Paul is thinking about Timothy and his desire is for Timothy to be a servant for every good work (2 Tim 3:16-17), but these words not just reserved for him. They are also for us today. |
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| 1. **PREACH THE WORD**
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We must be ready to preach the full counsel of God at all times (2 Tim 4:2), but do so willingly with the intention to correct, rebuke and encourage, even when people do not pay heed. There are two groups being addressed here; those who preach the Word and those who listen to the Word. Preachers must be careful not to say only the things that people want to hear. Instead, they need to speak the truth in patience and love. To those who listen to the Word, we learn that there are four types of listening and we should be aware of how we listen to God’s Word:* Informational Listening: To gain knowledge, but there is no change in lifestyle
* Selective Listening: To pick and choose whom and what to listen to, or for whom we are listening
* Critical Listening: To listen through prayer and constructive feedback that facilitates growth
* Biblical Listening: To listen with the intent to obey (Shama)

Look for teachers who demonstrate sound doctrine in their lives so that by learning from them, we can gain encouragement and grow spiritually (2 Tim 3:10-11a). When you teach, teach with the intent to help others grow with love and sound doctrine. When you listen, listen with the intent to obey.

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| 1. **FINISH THE WORK (2 Tim 4:5-8)**
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In the second component, Ps Kok Guan reminds us to finish the work. It requires us Christians to be alert and sober with a sound mind (2 Tim 1:7). Especially during tough times, we are encouraged to endure hardship, bite the bullet and press on to finish the work. The world is not our home and we must not get too comfortable. As Paul prepared for his “departure”, he was glad to receive the reward in heaven (2 Tim 4:7-8). Likewise, we too can look forward to receive the crown of righteousness when we finish the work God has called us to be faithful to.

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| 1. **LOVE THE WORKERS**
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In this final point, Paul beseeches Timothy to come to him quickly because he misses him. Paul writes both to warn Timothy about those that were not too nice to him but also to encourage him to leave it to the Lord. People may disappoint us but the Lord will be here for us. One of the best encouragements we can receive is to look at changed lives. Paul lists a long list of people and this is the list that matters. It is about the people of God who comes alongside us and that enables us to keep the good fight and finish the race.

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| **CONCLUSION** |

This final message in 2 Timothy 4 is for every Christian. It is the charge to preach the word, to finish the work and to love the workers. It is of great hope to every Christian that in the toughest time, following God’s Word will be like walking on a road lit by the light of dawn, brighter and brighter until it bursts into full day (Prov 4:18). God’s work is ultimately about God’s people and we must never forget that.  |
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| 1. **Ps Kok Guan listed down 4 types of listeners in the congregation – Informational, Selective, Critical and Biblical. Reflect on the traits of these 4 types of listeners; which do you tend towards when you are at cell group or at service?**
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| 1. **We are now midway through 2022. Was there something that God had placed in your heart to do for Him/others at the start of the year? Share how you have been responding to this call.**
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| 1. 2 Timothy 4 speaks about fighting the good fight, finishing the race and keeping the faith. How does “finishing the race” look like for us personally? What can we do to ensure that we finish this race well?
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