

# THE Rock COMMUNITY CHURCH

## 1 Timothy 4\_11-16

### “Perspective for a Young Pastor”

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22:40

We're gonna settle in and study from First Timothy chapter four this week as we finish up that chapter. And I'm kinda gonna invite you into a weird weekend, a weird sermon, because essentially what I'm doing this weekend as I get up and share this message is, I'm getting up and I'm gonna read some of my mail that maybe has come for me and we're gonna share this passage together this weekend.

23:06

So when we look at this sermon, essentially Paul is writing a letter to a young man named Timothy, giving him some instructions on how to live out his job as a young pastor and how to do it well. So I think there's pieces of that that are just very clearly given from Paul to young pastors like myself.

23:27

But in the immediate context, we look at it and we go, what does that have to do with all of us? But I think there's clear application in here for every single one of us. And in all ages, at all walks of life, wherever you may be coming from as you get here together this evening.

23:43

I believe that Paul is writing in a way that a young pastor like Timothy is going to give all of us encouragement as we go along for this ride together. So if you're an outline person, if you take notes, I stuck the outline in here.

23:56

We got an extra point. Pastors are supposed to have three points in their sermons. I don't know if they teach that in a class somewhere or what, but we've got four this week. So I figured I'd throw it in there for you guys.

24:06

So what we're gonna see in our passage, we're gonna see that the job of a pastor, the life of a pastor, the power of a pastor, and the perseverance of a pastor. So I wanna invite you to follow along with me as we read our passage together this evening.

24:20

We're gonna read 1 Timothy chapter four, verses 11 through 16. Verse 11, Paul starts as he's giving these instructions to young Timothy and he says, "Command and teach these things. Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.

24:42

And until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, and to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that you have which was given you by prophecy when the Council of Elders laid their hands on you.

24:54

But practice these things, immerse yourself in them so that all may see your progress. But keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing, you will save both yourself and your hearers. These are the words of the Lord. Would you guys pray with me?

25:13

God, we thank you for your word and we thank you for the opportunity that we have to gather together here this evening. God, to open up your word and to hear your inspired words that you have breathed out and given to us that we might consider this evening.

25:26

God, we pray that you would speak and that all of us would listen. God, we're thankful for your word and we're thankful that you have given it to us. So God, we humble ourselves before it this evening and we pray that you would fill our hearts, that you would fill our minds, that you would help us not only to understand intellectually what you have for us, but God that you would speak to our hearts and that you would help us in the depths of our guts to know how we need to not just understand your word, but God that we would respond to your word in every way, in every aspect of life.

25:58

So we give this time to you, we pray that you would speak and that your servants would listen. And it's in Jesus' name we pray, amen. Well as we dive in, we got four points, so we gotta keep moving this evening, but the first thing that we're gonna look at is the job of a pastor that we see in verse 11.

26:14

This short little verse, as Paul just tells Timothy, command and teach these things. Now as he says those things, we've been talking for the last few weeks about what these things are that he's talking about here in this verse, but he's talking about the encouragement to proclaim the right belief about who God is, and challenging people to live rightly and to believe rightly in his job as the pastor of the church.

26:44

Now I can say from my own experience that there are many things that can be perceived to be the job of a pastor, right? There are some of those jobs that are biblical jobs, and there are some of those that are opinion -based that people might look at me and say, well your job is too, and people have a lot of expectations of pastors, and some of those come from the Bible, and some of them are just what people think.

27:07

But what Paul is clearly stating here in verse 11 is the primary work that God has placed upon Timothy's and on every pastor's shoulders. He says to command and to teach these things. Now to command and to teach refers to the basic ordinary work of a pastor, the preaching of the word of God to the people of God.

27:31

Now whether that's in the gathered assembly like we're here now, or whether that's in private interactions of things that we would call counseling, or classes, or studies, or these different things, this is what any faithful pastor does.

27:43

His job is to take the word of God and to clearly explain it, and then to command and teach what the word of God has to say. Now the Greek word, the original language, as we look at, if we were to look at this in the original manuscripts, the Greek word here that we see translated as command can mean to direct or to give orders.

28:06

It can be used as a military term. And this is a reminder that the pastor, that the teaching elder has true spiritual authority. It's his job to teach and to explain for on God's behalf what God has commanded and told his people to do and to say and to how they should act.

28:28

His congregation is to trust and obey that the things that the pastor has received from God and received from the word of God, he's going to pass along faithfully. And this idea of preaching, of sharing what God has spoken, there's times where it has to be very clearly stated, commanded in the imperative mood.

28:48

This isn't just kind of abstractly wandering through some Bible stories like you may have seen people do from time to time. Now this involves concrete explanation and concrete commands to believe and to obey what God has spoken in his word.

29:03

So why did Paul need to remind Timothy of this God given authority that Timothy had? Now I don't know specifically why Timothy needed to hear that, but I can say from my own experience that I think there's probably a very clear reason for this because I have felt this at times as a young pastor and maybe not as young as I used to be, but certainly younger than I'll be in the future, right?

29:29

Maybe this was because Timothy, excuse me, was still a youngster relatively speaking, but I believe it would be easy for Timothy to feel unqualified in this job that he has been given to do. That Timothy has been told to speak with authority, to declare with authority, to command that people need to act differently than they have been previously.

29:52

That they need to respond to the word of God and that men and women in his church who were older than him needed to listen to what God had to say and needed to submit and respond appropriately to those things.

30:06

Now Timothy may have hypothetically heard like I have at different times, someone come up and dismissively say something along the lines of, you know, son, I got shoes older than you. Anybody ever heard someone say something like that?

30:20

And while that may in fact be true, I think that also may mean it's time for some new shoes. Just a suggestion that I may offer, but I think Timothy is here and if my experience is any reflection of what Timothy may have felt as a young pastor, there's times where you don't feel qualified in your own strength, in your own experience.

30:43

I could stand here and say, what do I have to, whoa, that was loud, right? What could I possibly have to pass along to someone, to encourage someone to be the husband or wife, to be the father or mother that God has commanded that you be?

31:00

You know, you've been doing this much longer than I have. So what do I have to offer? How can I speak with authority telling anyone how to do something if you've done it far more than I have? I think that Paul is fearing that Timothy might believe that his authority as the minister of the gospel was based on his thoughts, on his beliefs, on his own experience, but the reality is that Timothy's qualifications were not based on Timothy's qualifications, but rather Timothy's qualifications were based on what God had put into him, what God had said, and what God had given him as the task that he was supposed to do.

31:42

So when Paul is writing this letter to Timothy and tells Timothy, don't let anyone despise you for your youth, don't let anyone look down upon you because you're young, what he's doing is he's encouraging Timothy to stand firm in the job that God has given him.

31:58

And he's telling him to stand firm, and so as he tells him in verse 12, to let no one despise you for your youth. He now turns the attention from the job of a young pastor to now the life of that pastor.

32:14

Verse 12, Paul says to Timothy, let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity. Now at this point, I think that Paul kind of anticipates the problem that I've been mentioning here, the problem that may arise in young Timothy's ministry, and that is that people would look down upon him because of his relative youth.

32:40

Now the term that's used for youth here, that the original term refers to adult married men in other writings that would have been written during this same time. The word that's used there, most scholars believe, based on a couple of different things, that Timothy is probably in his 30s by this point in time.

33:01

But nevertheless, there are some older men and some older women in the church in Ephesus that might be tempted to look down upon Timothy for being so young, and therefore, to dismiss his teaching. They might say things like, what right does this young man have to tell us what we should do, or what we should think, or how we should act?

33:21

What does he know about marriage? What does he know about how we should act in the job center? What makes him think that he has any right, or any ability to teach me anything about anything? But what Paul is saying, in effect here in this passage, is don't let them treat you that way.

33:38

This command to not let anyone look down upon him because he was young was intended for a couple of different groups. First, he was writing this letter to Timothy, but Paul also knew that this letter was going to be read in the congregation, that the church was going to read this.

33:53

And so, as Paul is saying to Timothy, don't let anyone look down upon you because you're young. He's also telling the church, hey, church, don't look down upon him because he's young. Paul wanted to make sure that no one was going to discriminate against Timothy based solely on his age.

34:10

But then he proceeds to tell Timothy that he will gain the respect of people, not by pounding his fist and demanding that people needed to give him attention, that people needed to give him respect, but rather, he's telling Timothy that he will gain their respect by being worthy of their respect.

34:31

I think that's great direction for any of us who are young. Our 180 students, we told them that they're not going to get to go upstairs with their group tomorrow. They're going to be in here and we're going to talk about this as well.

34:43

But if you would consider yourself young, and I'm not going to put a number on that, anybody in this room, if you would consider yourself young, I think there's good wisdom in this for us. Because if you feel like, there's times I remember specifically growing up.

34:58

I'm still living at mom and dad's house. And I've got a little bit of independence, right? You guys remember those days you get some control and you get a job and you get your car. And you feel like, I know how the world works now.

35:12

Mom, dad, I don't need you telling me everything anymore. I'm in charge, right? Anybody ever felt that before? Well, what Paul is telling Timothy is that if you feel like no one gives you the respect that you deserve, don't go around stomping your feet demanding it and acting like you're entitled to respect in some way, to being treated differently in some way.

35:36

What he's telling him is give the people that may be looking down upon you, give them something to look up to in you. Cause they can't look down upon you if they're looking up to you, right? That they can't look down upon you if they're looking up to you in something that you're doing.



35:52

That's why Paul tells Timothy that to set the believers an example to follow. And then he mentions these five specific areas. He tells Timothy, set an example in the way that you speak in your speech, in your conduct, in your love, faith, and purity.

36:07

We're gonna touch quickly on each of those. First, he talks about our speech. Now this is not just a command for Timothy to make sure that he doesn't say any of those four -letter words that we're not supposed to say, right?

36:19

What he's saying here, what he's warning Timothy about is that someone who is godly, that someone who should be looked up to as an example for people to follow, they use their words properly. And someone who uses their words properly is known first to be truthful.

36:36

Ephesians chapter four tells us in verse 25, therefore having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Someone who uses their words properly also uses their words to build others up instead of tear others down.

36:54

Ephesians four, just a few verses later in verse 29, it says, let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion that it may give grace to those who hear.

37:07

These are the same instructions that Paul has written to the Ephesian church. These are the same people that heard these words as Paul is writing to as he has given Timothy the job of leading the Ephesian church.

37:19

He also continues in Ephesians chapter five and says that someone who uses their words properly is known for their purity and for their thankfulness. Ephesians chapter five, verse four, he says, let there be no filthiness or foolish talk or crude joking which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

37:40

Those are high standards for people to measure up to. That's not just don't say the bad words, right? There's a much longer list of expectations that God places on our speech than just don't say this word, this word, or this word, unless you live in a different part of the country in which case that one's okay, right?

37:59

This isn't just a contextualize, don't use this word or that word. What he's saying is that we should use our speech to be an encouragement to people, that we should be truthful with the things that we say, that we should be identified by a different way of speaking than other people might be that are of the world.

38:17

I think that's a worthwhile question or thought for all of us to consider. Do you use your words in a God honoring way? Do you use your words properly as an example that others could look up to and could follow whatever age you are?

38:33

Do you use your speech in the way that God would have you to use it? The second place, the second area that Paul tells Timothy to set an example for the believers is in his conduct. Now conduct refers to a person's way of life.

38:47

So Paul is telling Timothy that his conduct must be exemplary. Something that others can look up to, that others can imitate. And then he specifically lays out three items on this list. The next three, the last three are specific areas where Paul has something to say about how Timothy's conduct should look.

39:06

Timothy's godly character was to shine in these character qualities, in his love that he has for other people, in the faith that he has in his Lord and in his purity in the way that he interacts with others.

39:20

And first in love, he mentions that love is one of the things that Timothy should be able to set an example for the other believers in and the way that he loves others. Love is the first fruit, is the first thing in the list that is mentioned in Galatians chapter five as being one of the fruits of the spirit that God creates in the lives of people who belong to him.

39:42

It's a defining Christian virtue. In fact, first John chapter four says that if someone does not have love, that he's actually not a believer in the first place. First John chapter four, verse eight, says that anyone who does not love does not know God because God is love.

40:01

Love is an important thing for us to reflect in our interactions with one another. He also tells Timothy to be an example in the way that he has faith. Timothy is to be someone who exhibits trust in the Lord Jesus, even when his circumstances don't necessarily easily draw it out of him.

40:19

You cannot be a model Christian, someone who is an example worthy of following if you don't have dependent faith in Jesus Christ. And so Paul tells Timothy, hey, make sure

that you have a faith that is worthy of following, that you set an example for the believers in the way that you have faith.

40:37

And finally, he mentions purity. Purity actually only, this word, purity, actually only appears one other time in the New Testament and it's gonna show up again just in a few verses in 1 Timothy chapter five, where Paul tells Timothy to treat younger women as sisters in all purity.

40:55

So the idea behind this term is not just general, moral purity, but rather it's sexual purity in particular. He's telling Timothy, you can't be a horn-dog and be a pastor that's worthy of following. You can't go run around...

41:09

Maybe, right? Just lay it out there, right? We could translate this in a lot of different ways. But if you're gonna run around and chase after women, it means you're not chasing after God. If you're gonna set an example, that means in every aspect of life, in every area of life, and that means in the way that we speak, that means in the way that we treat other people, in the way that we love, in the way that we have all these different things and purity, sexual purity is a key area that young people, he's encouraging Timothy, hey, young man, learn to control yourself.

41:57

And he's actually gonna talk about that a good deal more in 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy as well. So young person, if you're here listening this evening and you're sitting here and you kind of have that attitude that I just talked about a few minutes ago, nobody respects me, nobody gives me the freedom or the attention or any of these things that I deserve.

42:17

Well, how can a young person gain the respect of these elders, of these older people that are in their life? Well, it's not by stomping your feet and demanding it, right? But

rather it's by setting a godly example that people would look at you and go, you know what, that young person's got it together.

42:33

When we set an example, when we follow Jesus in a way that people look at us and go, that person loves Jesus, it comes across differently. It changes the way that people look at you and it's what Timothy is being encouraged.

42:47

Paul's telling him, hey, no, no, no, don't stomp your feet and demand that I have a position that deserves your respect, so respect me, listen to me, obey me. Timothy's not supposed to live life and do his job and try to fulfill his ministry in that way.

43:05

Rather, Paul's telling him, hey, if you wanna influence people, be someone that people wanna be influenced by. Talked about the job of a pastor, we've talked about the life of a pastor, now we talk about the power of a pastor in verses 13 through 15.

43:21

Let's look at those verses again, read through those here together. It says in verse 13, Paul says, until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of scripture, to exhortation and to teaching, but do not neglect the gift that you have, which was given to you by prophecy when the Council of Elders laid their hands on you.

43:40

But practice these things, immerse yourself in them so that all may see your progress. This focus on godly character that we saw in verse 12, that Paul's telling Timothy, hey, make sure that your character is such that you're setting an example for other people to follow.

43:56

Well, Paul follows that up by telling Timothy that his ministry must be grounded specifically in the Word of God. Verse 13, he says, until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of scripture, to exhortation and to teaching.

44:12

Now, Paul has instructed Timothy to boldly fulfill his role as a teacher with authority and not to let people look down upon him because he's young, but these verses, they're outlining the foundation for why Timothy can stand boldly in his job.

44:29

This is why Timothy can stand boldly in his task, and it's not because he's particularly qualified to stand on the merits of his, you know, "I've been there and I've done that and I've walked this all out and I know how you should do this." Because Timothy was looking at people that were older than him and he really probably couldn't look at them and say, you should do it this way, not at least not based on his own experience.

44:52

It wasn't particularly qualified to instruct people based on his merits, but rather Timothy is told to focus the attention and to glean his authority from the Word of God, which he's been tasked with proclaiming boldly before that church in Ephesus.

45:08

By the way, while experience may help in some situations, it really doesn't matter if the preacher is 20 or 80. While having experience may allow you to speak with some authority on some topics, the authority of the scriptures supersedes any experience, any authority that you may have.

45:26

You may be an expert in your field. You may have taken 30 years of postgraduate education to be able to speak with authority on whatever it is. You may have written the book on whatever the topic is, but you know what?

45:39

If God's Word has something to say on the matter, it supersedes whatever your opinion may be and whatever your experience may be. So the ultimate authority that we stand and we proclaim in church is not my experience, is not my life stories, is not anyone's life stories.

45:54

It's what God has to say on the matter, and it's why Paul is telling him, hey, hey, hey, don't let them look down upon you. You have a job to do, but it's not because you're uniquely qualified to do the job.

46:06

It's because God has given you what you need to do the job. This simple section is a foundational text in defining the work of a pastor and the worship of a church. He says first that there should be public reading of scripture whenever the church meets together, that we have to humble ourselves before the Word of God.

46:26

The reason why we gather together is not just because we have awesome breakfast. It's not just because we like each other and we like to spend time together. It's not even because we like the music and you know, it's encouraging to us and I just want to come and hear those awesome musicians play for a few minutes.

46:42

We come and we gather together and we worship together because we humble ourselves before the Word of God, and so there's to be public reading of scripture every time the church gathers together. In addition to that reading of scripture though, there must also be exhortation and teaching.

47:00

Teaching would be, it would involve telling the congregation what a text means. So if you get up and you read it, there might be a little bit of confusion. There might be some things where you go, I'm not quite sure what that means or what this means.

47:12

So teaching would involve explaining how that passage or that text lines up with all of the rest of what the Bible has to say. It would be explaining so that you could understand what God's Word has to say.

47:24

And then exhortation is calling on hearers with authority to respond, to do something about what they've heard. All of those things are important and are necessary for the church to be doing its job and the preaching and the teaching and the proclamation of the Word of God.

47:40

Paul has just given us a definition of what the ministry of the Word should look like in any church that you ever attend. If a pastor is not reading and explaining the Bible's meaning, then he's not preaching.

47:53

And whatever exhortation, whatever things they tell you, hey, make sure you do this, whatever that is, if it's not based on the Word of God, it's going to be weak because it's just based on their qualifications, whatever they may be.

48:06

Pastors must pursue all three of these tasks to read the Word of God, to teach the Word of God, and to exhort people with the Word of God. Paul is commanding that Timothy's focus be on the Word of God.

48:20



It's this beautiful key in the middle of this whole passage because, remember, just a few minutes ago earlier when we were talking, Paul had told Timothy, hey, stand firm and don't let people diminish your work because you're young.

48:34

But Timothy's role is one of authority. It's not one that he's fulfilling that he's standing on his own merits or his own strength in what his job is. Paul is telling him, hey, don't forget, God has empowered you to do this.

48:49

So if God has equipped you to do this job, then do it and do it boldly. Do it in the way that God has equipped you to do it. If a pastor does not minister in the way that God has commanded him to minister, he's not doing his job.

49:05

He's not someone that should be followed. But a pastor does not ever succeed at his job by doing it in his own strength or in his own ability. This job is uniquely, the only way that this job can be done is in the power of the Holy Spirit.

49:22

And so God has called Timothy and Paul's reminding Timothy of that. Hey, you were uniquely called by God to do this job that God has given you to do. And no man and no woman, however old they are, no one in your church, no one anywhere in life that Timothy may find himself should ever stand in the way of what God has commanded and what God has empowered people to do.

49:49

And that's both people in Timothy's church and Timothy himself. I think he's warning Timothy, hey, Timothy, you may feel unqualified, but make sure you do your job because God has told you to do this and if you don't, you're the one that's being disobedient.

50:05

You can't handle how other people respond and I'm gonna remind them, hey, don't let people look down upon you because you're young. Hey, don't look down upon him because he's young. But also, Timothy, make sure that you know that this is a job that God has given you to do and that you do it in the way that God has told you to.

50:25

Talked about the job of a pastor, we've talked about the life of a pastor, we've talked about the power of a pastor and finally in verse 16, we see the perseverance of a pastor mentioned. Verse 16, it says to keep a close watch on yourself and on your teaching.

50:41

Persist in this, for by so doing, you will save both yourself and your hearers. The final warning that Timothy gets in chapter four here in this passage, as this empowering passage comes to a close, Paul tells Timothy, he says, hey, keep a close watch on yourself and on your teaching.

51:00

Timothy must keep a careful eye, both on his behavior that was mentioned in verse 12 and on his teaching that he stands on the word of God, that he teaches what God has to say, not what he might think, not what he might have to say.

51:13

And if he fails in either one, he will fail in his ministry. If his life is not reflective of what God has told him to be, that's what we just talked about a chapter or so ago, right? That God has clear expectations for what overseers, elders, pastors, deacons, these roles that are mentioned in first Timothy chapter three.

51:35

There's not a lot of job qualifications that are required in those passages. There's a lot of character qualifications that are mentioned in there. Paul is doubling down on that same conversation just like a page later in this letter.

51:50

He's telling Timothy, hey, if your life disqualifies you, you're in trouble, your ministry will not be successful. Keep a close watch on yourself. And he also reminds him, keep a close eye on your teaching.

52:03

Timothy must not only do these things, but he must persist in these things. And I think there's a valuable lesson in there for Timothy, for me, for any other pastor or teacher or anyone else who has anything that God has given you to do.

52:18

If God has given you something, our responsibility is to persist in that and to trust that what God has told us to do, God is going to empower us and make sure that we are able to do. To persist in these duties that we've been given is to persevere, is to put your head down.

52:36

And sometimes it doesn't matter what people around you are saying because God has given me this task. God has given you whatever that task is. And if we're supposed to persist in that task, it doesn't matter what the obstacles are.

52:51

Timothy must persevere in reading the scriptures and explaining the scriptures and exhorting obedience to the scriptures and commanding that people obey what God has told them to obey. Timothy cannot ever give up.

53:04

To quote a Tim Allen movie from about, well, a long time ago now. Never give up, never surrender, right? Never give up, never surrender. Timothy, never give up this job that

you've been given to do. The stakes for Timothy and his ministry are high as Paul reminds him in verse 16.

53:21

He tells him to persist in the preaching of the word because by doing so, he says that you will save both yourself and your hearers. For pastors, perseverance is not only necessary. It's mission critical. Because by persevering in the work that God has given them to do, it's necessary for their own salvation, but it's also, they play a crucial role in the salvation of sinners who are placed under their care.

53:49

Salvation, just open acknowledgement, right? We gotta make sure we're on the same page here. Salvation comes only by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. We are not saved by things that we do. We're not saved by somebody else.

54:02

I can't pray for you and somehow save you in some way. We are saved by placing our faith in Jesus alone, but, Romans chapter 10 also has a few other things to say that might make some sense of what Paul's saying here, because Romans chapter 10 verse 17 tells us that faith comes by hearing and hearing comes through the word of Christ.

54:23

Just a few verses earlier, he actually talked about the role that a preacher might play in that same faith coming by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ, because in Romans 10:14, Paul also says, how will they call on him in whom they have not believed?

54:37

And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? The proclamation of God's word is an important job, and whether that's done standing here on this stage on a Saturday night or a Sunday morning, whether that's done when you go to work and you proclaim what God

has shared with you, what you have received, you're supposed to go and take that to the people that you have influence over.

55:03

The relationships that you have, you're supposed to be that person in the same way. But as godly pastors preach and teach the word of God, people hear it and people repent and people believe and people are saved.

55:17

This is the work of God and how God brings people to relationship with him. He uses pastors, he uses proclaimers of the word like Romans chapter 10 says. How will they hear if someone's not willing to go and preach to them?

55:32

The reason why all of this is so important, the reason why, I don't know if you can tell, I'm a little excited about this one this week, right? The reason why faithfully proclaiming the word of God is mission critical for us at this church, and I believe at any church it should be, because there's going to come a day where you're going to find yourself at another church.

55:54

I may find myself at another church. We don't know what God has in store for the future, right? People move all the time. Stuff changes. Circumstances change. But we don't know what God has in store for tomorrow.

56:04

But wherever we may find ourselves in the future, the mission must remain central. The mission must remain the mission. The preaching time in the church is not just a story time. The preaching time in the church is not just time for opinions or what the pastor thinks about a topic, whatever it is.

56:23

It doesn't even matter if he's got 80 years of experience doing whatever it is. People's opinions are not something that we should base our life decisions upon. We stand on the authority of the word of God, and we stand knowing that God's word is ultimately the foundation for everything else.

56:43

Everything else is secondary to what God has spoken in His word. That's why I want us, as we finish up our time here in the next couple of minutes, I want to ask that we need to agree on this one concluding point for this passage this week.

57:00

You can always - just write it down. We've got recordings. We are all in on this. You can always expect that preaching at the The Rock Community Church is going to be built on the foundation of the Bible. It's not going to be built on what I think.

57:15

It's not going to be built on Dave or Bruce or anybody else that may come and stand up here in this pulpit. We will not build the preaching time of the word of God on anything other than the word of God.

57:27

We will read the word. We will explain the word, and we will challenge you to obey the word in the same way that Paul has told Timothy that he's supposed to do in this passage. If there ever comes a day where that's no longer the driving force of this time in this church, please drag me out of here.

57:44

Like, I'm not qualified to be called your pastor. I'm not qualified to be called anyone's pastor anymore. If this somehow becomes a time that I just get up here and share what I think about topics, I don't deserve to be up here.

57:57

No one that would stand up and would do that deserves to be up here. So whether that's in this church and you guys pull this recording out one day when I do something stupid and think this is about me instead of the word of God, drag me out of here.

58:11

And one day you find yourself in another church because the reality is some of you are going to attend another church at some point in your life. When you're looking for that next church, make sure that this time is based on the word of God, that the preaching of the word of God is central in whatever that church does because they may have some really awesome programs.

58:35

They may have a really great children's ministry. You might really like the music in the way that they do all of those things. But the church is not the church. If a man's opinion is what's happening during this time in the sermon.

58:48

A man's opinion has very little to do with what is supposed to be set up here during this 30 or 40 or sometimes 50. I get a little carried away sometimes. And until the day that you guys drag me out of here because I'm no longer doing the job that God has given me to do, until that day I have a responsibility to stand up here and to boldly declare what God has spoken in His word and to never shy away from it and to never apologize for it.

59:20

We will preach the word of God and we will do so unapologetically. And if that offends you, I'm disappointed for you but I'm not gonna apologize for what God's word has to say. God's word has spoken and if God's word and my opinion disagree on a matter, you know what's wrong?

59:37

It's not the word of God, it's me. We humble ourselves before the word. And so as we're sitting here and as we're talking about what this is supposed to be and what the job of a pastor is and what the job of a church is and what this time is supposed to be for, you have a responsibility and a command by God in this passage to support, to follow, to pray for the pastors and the leaders of The Rock Community Church.

01:00:12

And you know what? I have good news for me. That is not - that responsibility that you have is not because I'm somehow worthy of it. It's because God has called us to this position and He is worthy of it.

01:00:28

So we don't obey because I said so. We don't obey because you feel like it because I'm not standing up here speaking on my own authority. If I was up here saying what I think, then you probably shouldn't listen to me, right?

01:00:44

But if I'm up here declaring what God has to say or Dave or Bruce or whoever is up here declaring what God has to say, well that's not my decision or your decision or anybody else's decision to obey or not obey.

01:00:57

We are commanded to obey based on what God has told us. If you're gonna be obedient to God, you're gonna do what His word says. Not because the preacher is worthy of respect or worthy of authority, but because God has commanded that if he's holding tightly to His word, God says he's worthy of it.

01:01:20

We're gonna finish up in just a few minutes. Our prayer team is gonna be down here at the end of the service. If you'd like to come down and receive prayer, they would love to pray with you. I'm gonna be floating around out here somewhere.



01:01:31

I'd love to talk with you if you've got questions or just wanna tell me how terrible this was. I'm around and would love to hear it. Also, maybe you're a little too shy to come talk to someone, but you want prayer, you wanna be able to share something.

01:01:43

We've got a prayer wall back in the back hallway as well. If you wanna go back there, there's little slips of paper and pens and stuff. You can write down those prayer requests and know that our prayer team is going to receive those requests and is gonna pray for it whether you put your name on there or not, whether you put the person's name on there or not.

01:02:00

We serve a really big God. And even if you just said unspoken and stick it on there, I can't tell you any of the details, but please pray for this thing, whatever it is. You know what? God knows all things.

01:02:13

And that means that if you need prayer for whatever that is, we might not know what it is, but God does. And we're gonna pray for that too. We're gonna know that God knows even when we don't. So please, please, please take a few moments at the end of the service.

01:02:27

Either come down here for prayer, make sure you stop by the prayer wall. We want to be praying for the things that are going on in your life. We wanna bring our request to God and ask him to work in ways that he promises that he'll work.

01:02:39

So don't forget on your way out. I know you wanna rush out of here to dinner. Make sure we take a few moments and pray as well. Would you guys pray with me now? God, we thank you for your word. God, I'm so thankful for, God, just for this reminder that I needed this week.

01:03:00

That this isn't something that I stand up and do because I'm somehow uniquely qualified, because I'm not. God, this isn't just something that we get up and we do, and we take a few minutes in service because it's somehow fun or interesting or that people might want some opinion on the matter.

01:03:25

God, we humble ourselves before your word. We humble ourselves before what you have to say, and God, you have called each and every one of us to play the role that you have given us to play. God, we are all under authority in different aspects of life, and we are all given authority in different aspects of life.

01:03:43

God, we're given responsibilities. And God, I pray that you would allow our church, God, that you would help us to be faithful, to be the people that we're supposed to be. That we would exhibit the character that Paul calls Timothy to, that we would be people who deserve to be looked up to in the ways that we speak and conduct ourselves and show love and charity and all these different things.

01:04:06

God, I pray that you would help us to be the people that we're supposed to be. God, I pray that you would also help us to hold fast to the word of God like you call us to. God, we don't stand in our own merits, we don't stand in our own beliefs.

01:04:23

God, we stand on your word. And no matter how unqualified I may be, we may be, we know that you are. And we know that if you call us to do something, you will empower us

to do it. That if your word tells us to live in a certain way, your Holy Spirit will empower us to do that.

01:04:50

We're commanded to go and to make disciples of all the nations, to teach people to know and to follow and serve and obey you. God, if we're supposed to do these things and they seem terrifying to us, that's good because you don't invite us to do it in our strength.

01:05:10

God, help us to be dependent on you and help us to do our job. Help us to do our job and to do it in conviction. God, help us to do it in boldness, knowing that if you call us to something, you will empower us to do it.

01:05:30

God, we thank you for your word, we thank you for your Holy Spirit, we thank you for your work in our lives. Use us as empty vessels for your work. It's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.