

Introduction: The insidious power of wanting to be “accepted by the crowd.”

The antidote to peer pressure is God pressure

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

2 Timothy 4:1

We are commanded to be ready to communicate and apply God's Word in unpopular ways with great patience in a hostile environment

- The command 2 Timothy 4:2
 - Preach the Word.
 - Be ready in season and out of season.
 - Correct, rebuke, and exhort.
 - Do it with great patience and instruction.

- The challenge 2 Timothy 4:3-4

- The calling 2 Timothy 4:5

- The reason 2 Timothy 4:6-7

- The reward 2 Timothy 4:8

We never outgrow our need for others

- Paul's plea – “Come soon” 2 Timothy 4:9, 21

- Paul's reasons 2 Timothy 4:10-21
 - Abandoned 2 Timothy 4:10a

 - Delegated workers elsewhere 2 Timothy 4:10b-12

 - Practical needs 2 Timothy 4:13

- Paul's warning = “Watch out for Alexander” 2 Timothy 14-15

- Paul's testimony = “Jesus stood with me” 2 Timothy 4:16-18

- Paul's heart = To the very end 2 Timothy 4:19-21

Summary

Faithfulness to endure whatever suffering, hardship, or persecution can only be accomplished by God's supernatural enabling (grace) and the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit within us.

2 Timothy 4:22

Discussion Questions:

1. In verse 1, Paul alluded to the coming judgment for all believers. How often does the reality of that event, counterbalance our own human inclination to compromise under peer and cultural pressure?
2. The authority of God's Word is challenged today not only in the culture, but also within the church. On what issues do you find yourself struggling to communicate God's Truth? (i.e. life, marriage, gender, and sexuality)
3. What kind of attitude is Timothy told to maintain even as the reception to God's Truth is rejected inside and outside the church?
4. What's God saying to you? Who and what do you need in your life to be bold, strong, prepared, and faithful in the days ahead?