

Overcoming Uncertain Times: Heeding Sound Counsel

Wylie Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – September 8, 2024

2 Timothy 4:1-5

1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

During uncertain times...

1. REMEMBER WHO (AND WHOSE) YOU ARE

2 Timothy 4:5

But you...

1 Peter 2:9

... you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

John 1:12

... to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

During uncertain times...

2. STAY GROUNDED & PREPARE FOR A BUMPY RIDE

2 Timothy 4:5

...keep your head in all situations, endure hardship...

Matthew 24:12-13

“12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 Thessalonians 4:13

... we do not want you to ... grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

During uncertain times...

3. FOCUS ON YOUR ETERNAL MISSION

2 Timothy 4:5

... do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry...

Mark 16:15

[Jesus] said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Paul closes his letter to Timothy with these words:

2 Timothy 4:6-8

6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day — and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.