

Series: The Essential Church; Sermon: “**This One Thing**”;  
Delivered by **Josh Moody**, senior pastor, on August 4, 2019

**Bible text explored: 2 Timothy 4:1–5**

<sup>1</sup>I 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: <sup>2</sup>preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. <sup>5</sup>As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. [ESV]

**Review and application:**

1. In this epistle (v. 1), Paul is handing the mantle of leadership of the Ephesian church off to Timothy. How would anticipation of Christ’s reappearing create urgency for Timothy?

How does this equally apply to us? (See also, 2 Cor. 5:10.)

2. If our lives seem overwhelmingly complicated and exhaustively busy, how could assigning what consumes our time into the following four categories provide clarity about prioritizing God’s Word?

- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a) Not important and not urgent | b) Urgent but not important    |
| c) Important but not urgent     | d) Important <i>and</i> urgent |

What personal examples could you give for each of these categories?

If you were convinced that Jesus’ return was imminent would you adjust the quadrants in which your activities were placed?

*To many, the heart of Paul’s charge (v. 2) to “preach the word,” refers primarily to church leaders. But this should include all believers announcing the good news wherever they are.*

3. How can we “be ready” to speak a needed gospel word . . .  
. . . issuing correction or warning while demonstrating “complete patience”?  
. . . whether or not it is welcome?
4. Pastor Josh offered three tools for gospel sharing. How could you put these to use?
  - a) Demonstrate personal care first.
  - b) Ask your hearers how Jesus has met them.
  - c) Resist merely giving your own opinions; stick to what the Bible says.
5. What obstacles (vv. 3-4) will gospel announcers encounter from . . .  
. . . teachers who “wander off”?  
. . . hearers with “itching ears”? (an appetite for spiritual junk food)
6. What qualities will be required (v. 5) for Timothy—and for us—to fully carry out this charge as to . . .  
. . . deliberateness of purpose?  
. . . readiness to endure opposition?  
. . . commitment to faithful performance?