

# FULFILLING THE END-TIME MANDATE

## LOYALTY MONTH PREACHING BOOKLET

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## FOREWORD

To God be the glory for His faithfulness to us thus far into the year – our year of Increased Greatness (Psalm 71:21). We thank God particularly that we have come into another Loyalty Month, a time when our ministers exchange the pulpit in our churches across the country.

Over the years, this exercise has brought to us unique experiences and blessings as a Body of Christ. In recent years, we have modified the arrangement, bringing innovation into the system. The commitment, dedication and dexterity of the officials of the Directorate of Christian Education that has been given the responsibility of coordinating this annual event in our organization at all levels is acknowledged and highly appreciated. The Almighty God will continue to renew your strength and reward your labour of love in Jesus name.

As we are therefore set to go out this time, it is my prayer and expectation that testimonies of increased greatness will trail our ministrations in Jesus name.

The theme of our Loyalty Month, “Fulfilling the End-Time Mandate” taken from 2 Timothy 4:1-5 is very instructive and timely. For any discerning Bible reader and close observer, it is crystal clear that we live in the end time. It is a time which demands that we live faithfully, focused, consistent and committed to fulfilling the mandate we have been given as children of God and ministers of the glorious gospel. God, our Father has graciously made available to us all that we need for us to successfully accomplish His mandate on the earth.

This loyalty month affords us the opportunity to see some of the areas (as contained in the message for each Sunday) we need to note as we pursue the Decade of Multiplication vision. We trust God to bring us into fulfillment as we labour for the growth of God’s kingdom in Jesus name.

This month, as we minister to different congregation, let us be open afresh to the Holy Spirit, the Great Teacher and Spirit of Truth. May we be great blessings to the people as we declare the counsel of God from the pulpits in Jesus name. I also pray for divine presence and protection as we go from one location to another in Jesus name.

Shalom and Maranatha.

**Rev. Felix Meduoye**

**General Overseer,**

**The Foursquare Gospel Church in Nigeria**

## PREFACE

Whao!!! The good Lord, the Father of life and light has in His infinite mercy kept and preserved us to witness 2017 “Loyalty programme.” This yearly exercise by His grace will produce an awakening that will birth unprecedented revival of compassion for the lost in the heart of brethren in Jesus' name.

The theme for our consideration this year “Fulfilling the End-Time Mandate” has been prayerfully selected and approved by our father in the Lord. The church must not be ignorant of this end-time period. An End-time is an event or activity describing the climax of a particular period. We need to remember that we are in the last days when perilous times are prevailing (II Tim. 3:1-5).

The world is facing crisis as never before. Today, we are witnessing unprecedented increase in the growth of wickedness, unpredictable crime, contamination from the evil kingdom, people becoming more distressed and broken-hearted, oppressed, afflicted by forces of evil, increasingly darkened world. The world has nothing to offer. What about the church?

I implore us to rise up and get ready to proclaim the gospel more passionately. We need to witness for Christ, be more committed to the mandate. All of us must become preachers of the word we must run with the gospel and comb every nooks and cranny of our environment of operation with the Foursquare message of Jesus as the Saviour, the Baptizer with the Holy-Spirit and power, the Healer and the Soon Coming King.

Brethren, let us prayerfully prepare to deliver God's message to His people, preaching the word that is relevant, profitable for instruction, reproof and conviction, correction of error and training in righteousness.

Finally, be at your duty post for inter/intra pulpit exchange and if you have any challenge in locating your assigned place, please our DCEMs/Axis/Regional Coordinators and the National C.E. Director are all available to assist us.

Stay blessed In His Service  
**K.O. Ayanbanjo**  
NDCE

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY

**TOPIC: THE PRIORITY OF THE MANDATE**

**TEXT: II TIMOTHY 4:1-2**

### INTRODUCTION

It is often said that words of dying men should be taken seriously. The words of dying men are said to be very significant. Our text is Paul's final charge to Timothy just before his execution sensing that the time for his departure is at hand (II Timothy 4:6). Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour did the same at the eve of His departure from the earth (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18). Both Jesus and Paul the Apostle made their last words mandates to their followers; Paul to his son Timothy and Jesus Christ to all who believes.

A mandate is a command or an authorization to act in a particular way. It is an authoritative command. In this case, the great commission to preach and teach the word of God is our mandate. Priority on the other hand, refers to something that is regarded or considered more important than any other matter in the matrix of time and activities. It is both urgent and important. It is a priority because it is superior in rank, position and privilege.

We are in the end-time where we have many young and old, men and women dying without establishing any relationship with Jesus Christ. Yet, the coming of the Lord is at hand. We must prioritise the mandate as we actively participate in the Decade of Multiplication activities of Soul Winning, Church planting and Discipleship. Thus, fulfilling the two fold objectives of the mandate; winning souls and getting them engrafted into the church.

We shall be looking at our topic by answering the following questions;

### I. WHY SHOULD WE PRIORITISE THE MANDATE?

How should we see the mandate? It should be seen as:

The imminent coming of the Lord is at hand with many dying daily and heading for eternal damnation in hell. We must stop them. (Matt 11:12; 16:18; Mk 9:44-46; 2 Cor. 5:11).

A. **It is commanded by God's word and not a counsel nor an advice.**

It is a command. (Mk 16:15, Matthew 28:19-20). Paul gave the same command to both Timothy and Titus "Preach the word" (II Tim. 4:2, Titus 1:3)

B. **It is of utmost importance in view of the coming judgment.**

The word "to judge" in (II Tim. 4:1) literally means "is about". It implies the urgency of the task. (Rev. 20:15, II Tim 4:1).

C. **It means to be ready in season and out of season (vs. 2a)**

"Be ready in season and out of season" v2a imputes a further sense of urgency. It pictures a medical ambulance ready to save a life. Souls are perishing without Christ and Christians are straying from the fold. We must proclaim God's word whenever and wherever we can! Robert Speer said, "A person is duty bound to either propagate his religion or change it."

## II. HOW CAN WE PRIORITISE THE MANDATE?

When we prioritise the mandate, it will reflect in the use of resources at our disposal.

A. **TIME:** We will always have time for whatever we consider important and urgent. We must create time to obey the mandate as Jesus Christ did. (John 9:4; Mk 1:35-38). We must have time for;

i. **PRAYER:** Time must be created to pray for lands, communities, nations and individuals. We have examples in; Abraham (Gen. 18:22-23); Moses (Ex 32:31); Daniel (Dan 9:3-10); Paul (Acts 27:10-44); The early church (Acts 6:4).

ii. **PREACHING:** We must preach the word at all times, both in season and out of season. We must create the opportunity as Jesus did, (John 4); As Philip did (Acts 8:4-5, 26-30. 2 Tim 4:2a).

B. **TALENT:** We must use every opportunity we have in the use of

our talents and skills to proclaim the word.

C. **TREASURE:** We must use our treasure for the work of Missions, evangelism and church planting. Peter gave his only boat to Jesus to preach. (Luke 5:1-3; Acts 4:37; Zech.1:17a).

## III WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PRIORITISING THE MANDATE?

When we make the great commission mandate a priority, there is great reward and blessings to us both as local assemblies and as individuals. The following are some of the benefits:

A. It establishes the believer in his own faith. It is through proclaiming the word that our unsaved loved ones, friends and associates will know of the grace of God in our lives. (John 4:5-26, 39; 1:44-45).

B. It guarantees church growth and kingdom expansion. (Acts 2:40-41; Acts 1:8). Kimball preached to D.L. Moody who converted F. B. Meyer. F. B. Meyer discipled Billy Sunday who preached to a group led by Mordecai Hann through whose crusade Billy Graham responsible for preaching to millions was converted.

C. It releases the reward of obedience (Isa. 1:19. Job 36:11).

D. It releases joy in heaven as souls are saved. (Lk. 15:7), joy to individuals and meeting the Master's expectation (Mt 25:21, 23); joy to the hearers as it happened in Samaria (Acts 8:5-6, 8).

E. Miracles, signs and wonders often accompany public proclamation of the gospel (Mk. 16:20; Acts 8:6-8).

## CONCLUSION

The mandate to preach the word remains a priority particularly now that the end time is here. The time is short. The Lord is coming soon. We cannot afford to be distracted with other things lest we suffer the tragic fate of the servant who "was busy here and there" (1 King 20:39-42). God forbid! It is time to prioritise the mandate as we focus on the Decade of Multiplication programme of evangelism, soul winning, church

**TOPIC: THE PERVERSION OF THE MANDATE**

**TEXT: II TIM 4:3-4, I TIMOTHY 6: 3-5**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Word Perversion refers to the act of turning from the right course and willful corruption of moral standards and code of ethics. The word mandate could be simply defined as order, injunction or commission.

Therefore, our message will focus on the attempt by people to corrupt, debase or weaken the gospel commission of our Lord Jesus. Apostle Paul was writing a Pastoral epistle to his spiritual son, Timothy. His messages in first and second epistles to Timothy were laced with encouragements, persuasion, instructions, warnings and commands.

### **I. REASONS WHY PEOPLE PERVERT THE MANDATE (II TIM4:3).**

People always have reasons to pervert a cause on another.

In our text, we can identify two basic reasons for perverting the mandate.

#### **(I) Inability to put up with sound Doctrine. 11 Timothy 4:3.**

Sound doctrine is the balanced teaching of the word of God. This kind of doctrine will draw its message from the Holy Spirit and be "useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that God's people may be thoroughly equipped for every good work". 11 Timothy 3:16. Some Christians may not be able to "put up with" or bear this sound doctrine because it may provoke reactions from the world and lead to persecution and sufferings for righteousness sake 11Timothy 3:10-12. Apostle Paul then encouraged Timothy to continue in what he (Timothy) has learned and become convinced of, to avoid going astray 11Timothy 3:10-11, 14.

#### **(ii) Desire to gratify selfish desires. II Timothy 4:3.**

The scriptures says "walk in the spirit and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh" Galatians 5:16. The lust of the flesh is a

product of the love of the world and it manifests as the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. 1John2: 15-17. This love of the world makes people to pervert the gospel by repackaging it to suit and soothe their selfish desires. Such people serve their own belly which is their god. But their end is destruction. Romans 16:18, Philippians 3:19.

### **II. METHODS OF PERVERTING THE MANDATE (II TIMOTHY 4:3).**

People who pervert the mandate are very crafty, cunning and mischievous. They have perfected the schemes of perversion.

- A. They are rather comfortable with listening to teachers who will say what their itching ears want to hear. They indulge in self delusion by choosing teachers who are going to teach what they want to hear; NOT what God wants to correct in them.
- B. They turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. Apostle Paul had earlier warned about this in 1Timothy 1:3-4. They promote controversies to mislead people. They use hollow and deceptive philosophies to enslave people. Colossians 2:8.
- C. They cleverly warm their ways into homes and gain control over weak-willed women. II Timothy 3:6. Such women are loaded down with sins and easily swayed by all kinds of evil desires.
- D. They use smooth talks and flattery to deceive people. Romans 16:18. People who have oratory skills could be persuasive and captivating. They could easily pervert the truth and sway their hearers from the gospel mandate.

### **III. PRINCIPLES TO PREVENT THE PERVERSION OF THE MANDATE. (II TIMOTHY 4:2; 5).**

Perversers of the mandate abandon the true faith. They are hypocritical liars; they follow deceiving spirits and their consciences are seared. Therefore, we must apply the following principles to immune ourselves against their antics.

- A. We must be able to identify them by their fruits and through

spiritual discernment (Matt 7:16, 20).

- B. We must let the word of God dwell in us richly (Colossians 3:16) When Jesus was tempted by the devil to pervert the mandate, He demonstrated the richness of the word of God in Him to defeat the enemy. In Luke 4:4, 8, 12, Jesus quoted from Deut. 6:3, 13 and 16.
- C. We must preach and teach sound doctrine (II Timothy 4:2). We should use sound doctrine to rebuke, correct, encourage and instruct people, to prevent perversion of the mandate.
- D. We must be ready to defend our mandate when persecution arises (II Timothy 4:5). It is said that “he who is not willing to die, is not fit to live”. This is also the message of the Lord in Luke 9:24. He said “whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.” Any attempt to soften the ground in the face of persecution makes people compromise their faith and pervert the mandate.

### CONCLUSION

Perversion is like cancer. As deadly as it is, it usually creeps into peoples' lives quietly through compromise. It could start by taking position with “it doesn't matter” in critical situations challenging our faith. Therefore, we must always “be sober, be vigilant; because our adversary, the devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom to devour” (1Peter 5:8) through the perversion of our mandate.

**TOPIC: THE PLACE OF FATHERS IN THE PURSUIT OF THE MANDATE**

**TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 6:6-9**

### INTRODUCTION

In His infinite wisdom, God originally assigned the responsibility of leading the families to the fathers and holds them accountable. Fathers are meant to play the roles of priests, teachers, counselors, leaders among others in their families. Therefore, whatever the church becomes depends on how the fathers handle their God-given assignments. Of course, our concern should be seeing Christian fathers rise to their noble duties! This year's Father's Day will definitely mark a new beginning for us fathers. God will open our eyes of understanding to know His expectations of us and stir up our spirit so that we take the proper place in the scheme of things in Jesus name! Families, Churches and Society will know it for good if the fathers can take their place well! Let us discuss three important areas of the place of fathers in the pursuit of the mandate:

#### I. THE PLACE OF LOYALTY TO GOD (I CHRONICLES 28:9)

Any child of God who faithfully reads the word of God will know that God places high premium on loyalty. Obviously, God cannot accept anything in place of loyalty or allegiance! Truly, our attitude to God must be clearly characterized by this important spiritual keyword! When the hearts of fathers are loyal to God, they will go anywhere with and for Him.

##### A. Loyal to the word of God (Gen 22:2-3, Isaiah 66:1-2, John 14:23)

Our covenant relationship with God is based on command and compliance. God commands, we obey! We invite trouble with God when we refuse to obey His word.

##### B. Loyal to the will of God (John 5:30, 6:38, Acts 13:22)

The secret of Jesus' success can easily be linked to His absolute submission to the Father's will. He pledged total allegiance to the Father's will and stayed on it throughout His earthly ministry. Fathers, how submitted are you to God's will?

**C. Loyal to the worship of God (Ps 95:6,96:9,138:2)**

The father's due time to worship God is now! It will be awesome to see more fathers coming to church and approaching God's presence humbly, wholeheartedly, with trembling and positively-clamorous praise. Fathers must begin to worship God as never before and always lead their families to church services/activities.

**II. THE PLACE OF LOVE FOR THE FAMILY (II SAMUEL 6:20)**

Obviously, King David loved his family dearly to the point that he did not forget to extend the celebration of the success of his second mission to bring back the Ark of God. In his love, he returned to bless his household. Fathers, show your love to your family!

**A. Practical love for wife and the entire household (Eph 5:25; Gen 37:35)**

- i. Demonstrating goodwill, compassion and interest to your children (Eph 6:4)
- ii. Show fatherly-heart of forgiveness to the repentant offender. (Luke 15:20)

**B. Adequate support and provision for your family (Gen 30:30, I Tim 5:8)**

May God empower our fathers economically to support and provide adequately for the household in Jesus name!

**C. Cover your household with regular prayer offering (Job 1:3)**

Fertilize, fortify and flourish your house with daily prayer offering. Prayer is very important to the health of our families.

**D. Cultivate the habit of blessing your household and being a blessing (I Chron. 16:43)**

Make it a habit and a commitment to consciously bless the members of your family. King David went home to bless his house after dealing with the public.

**III. THE PLACE OF LEADERSHIP TO THE PEOPLE (I TIM. 3:4, 12).**

When the headship of fathers to their families is well understood, their responsibility of leadership will be a priority and a commitment! Inadvertently, fathers seem to be relinquishing their

leadership roles to the mothers in these precarious days. "They are subsumed in the rat-race." The adverse effects of such unnecessary negligence are obvious in families, church and society.

**A. Lead your household to serve the Lord as a deliberate choice (Joshua 24:15)**

God must not be an option to any Christian; neither must he make the mistake of giving such impression to his family. It is the fathers' role to lead members of their families a convincing, personal and deliberate choice to serve.

**B. Lead your household to shun idolatry and practice godly living (Gen 35:2-5)**

Deliberate choice to serve God must reflect in demonstration of godliness!

**C. Lead your household to keep the way of the Lord (Gen 18:19)**

It is primarily the responsibility of the father to command his children and his entire household to keep the way of the Lord. A godly father must take that role serious!

**D. Lead your household to have deep knowledge of the word of God (Deut 6:6-9)**

Importantly, fathers must have good and practical knowledge of the word of God so that they will be able to lead their household to enjoy same. Teach them God's word regularly!

**CONCLUSION**

The greatest challenge facing the church today is neither the obvious global turmoil, nor the ravaging flames of terrorism. Yes, Satan had stirred up miserable infidels to launch bloody and destructive attacks on the church! However, that is not the problem of the church! The present challenges of the church include: "knowing where she belongs, understanding current happenings and engaging in what she ought to be doing now – Pursuit of the Divine mandate!" Therefore, it is imperative that fathers be awake and take their place in the pursuit of the mandate. Fathers, understand that your place in the pursuit of the mandate is very crucial! Arise and close the gap! Take your place now!

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY

**TOPIC: THE PERSPECTIVE TO THE MANDATE OF THE END TIME**

**TEXT: II TIMOTHY 4: 5**

### INTRODUCTION

The whole passage (II Timothy, 4:1-5) gives us Paul's perspective about ministry. The situation then as in contemporary time was that of prevalence of falsehood. The charge is to preach the word of God in all circumstances. The charge is relevant to us today. The message of this passage is for those who are too complacent and are prepared to assent to the present situation. There is need for Christians to maintain the truth in a world hostile to the word of God. We are really considering the last words of Apostle Paul coming with about thirty years of unparalleled service to God. Through the Holy Spirit, he gave Timothy charge on how to conduct himself. In verse 5 we are to look at it in four directions.

### I COMPONENT OF FULFILLING THE END TIME MANDATE “keep your head in all situations” (v5a)

The people of God need to be calm and composed in the face of perversion of the truth and resistance to the Gospel of our Lord. To keep ones head in all situations simply means Self Control in all circumstances such as:

- A. Pressures in the face of falsehood
- B. Pressures in the face of deprivations

### II CONVICTION IN FULFILLING THE END TIME MANDATE “endure hardship” v 5b

We are to endure hardship instead of compromising the truth. Many before us suffered for holding unto the truth. It must be a settled conviction that those who desire to preach and practice the truth will experience suffering so the command is that we endure hardship. In the light of this reality; we must:

- A. Persevere in a task(ministry)
- B. Persevere in trials

- C. Persevere in truth (the sound doctrine). We are not to express our own opinions but proclaim and defend the sound word of God.

### III COMMITMENT IN FULFILLING THE END TIME MANDATE “do the work of an evangelist” (v5c)

The mandate of the pastor (remember Timothy was a pastor) is twofold: evangelizing and teaching. We must be committed to the:

- A Preaching of the truth (Spreading the Gospel to unbelievers)
- B Teaching the truth (teaching Christians the word of God)

### IV CHARGE TO FULFILLING THE END TIME MANDATE “discharge all the duties of your ministry” (v5)

The charge is for us to fully fulfill/complete our mission/mandate (cf Acts 12:25). To do just that requires:

- A Perseverance in our proclamation of the truth
- B Persuasiveness in proclamation of the truth (lets be passionate about the mandate)

### CONCLUSION

The world of today is similar to that of Timothy with regards to negative attitude to the word of God. People do not want to hear sound doctrine. They prefer only preachers who tell them what they want to hear. Under these circumstances, we must be committed and consistent in proclaiming the truth, nothing but the truth, the whole counsel of God. By so doing, we fulfill the end time mandate or charge.