

The Faith Script

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Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. John 4:35-36 (NKJV)

[Prayer Wall](#)

The Importance of Last Words

As I reflect on the last months of my father's life, I cannot help but think of the last words he spoke to me and me to him. His words to me included wanting me to have his retirement watch and words of concern for my mother's well-being. He also expressed a desire that I had never seen in him before to know the truth about his salvation. He wanted to know with certainty that he was going to heaven. I answered his question with words of truth...the Gospel message.

This reminds me of Paul in 2 Timothy 4:1-4. *"I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables"* (NKJV). Here is Paul's final charge to Timothy just before his execution. Paul realizes his time is short. This letter carries with it a type of urgency not seen in Paul's other letters. What is so important to Paul to be the last thing he mentions to Timothy in his last letter? Preach the Word of God. The word "preach" is translated from a Greek word (kerysso) which means "to herald" or "to proclaim publicly". The herald was the king's messenger who relayed the king's message to the people. He was not allowed to make up his own message, but he was to proclaim faithfully the king's message so that the people understood it. That is what was so serious and important to Paul. That God's Word be faithfully proclaimed to the people so they understand. This is important to Paul because "the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine...and they will turn their ears away from the truth." The word "sound" is translated from a Greek word (hygiaino) which is where we get the word hygiene. It means healthy. They will turn from truth that promotes spiritual health to spiritually unhealthy fables.

Paul's thoughts and words just prior to his death focused on eternal life. This should be our focus as well as we care for our patients. We need to proclaim our King's message in a way our patients can understand. We need to feed their spirits with the King's nutritious spiritual food to counteract the world's spiritual "junk food". We need to go about the work that Jesus gave us in a way that pleases Him.

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It can be discouraging to Christian pharmacists when our patients do not immediately respond to our words and actions given for their spiritual health. It may take a while for the seeds we plant to take root and blossom into true faith in Jesus Christ. However, we should not be discouraged. Simply doing our work the best we can every day is contributing to the physical health of our patients. They feel better, live longer, and thus have an extended opportunity to hear, believe, and accept the Gospel message. I am thankful to all the doctors and pharmacists over the past 35 years who did their jobs and extended my father's life. For him, it took 89 ½ years for the seed to blossom. Three months before he died, my wife and I had the privilege of leading both my father and mother in the salvation prayer. Last words are important. For Christian pharmacists, they can determine the eternal destiny of our patients.

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