February 19, 2021 Lenten Devotional
II Timothy 4:1-5 - "For the Time is Cominig"
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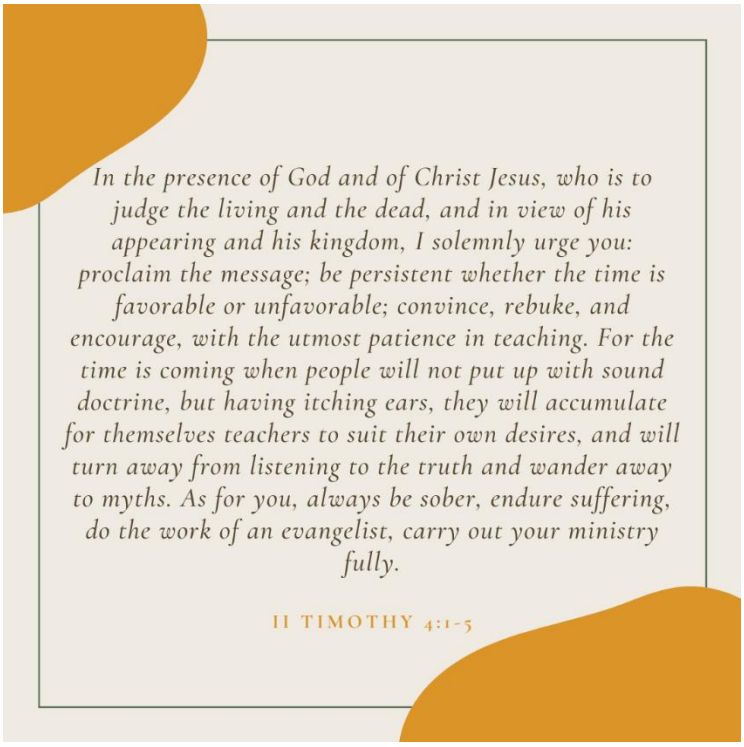

Have you ever just wanted to give up? It could be that you have been burned out by school or work. Or perhaps you have been struggling in your faith and you might be ready to give up on God. It is so hard to believe that we are almost a year into this lock-down! Some of us might be wondering, why doesn't God just fix this? We might be tired of waiting for God and are ready to turn to something else. Our lesson tells us, "proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable." Times are pretty unfavorable now, right? Yet, we are called to proclaim the message in times that are favorable and unfavorable. How on earth do we do that? How do we have persistence in the face of such great problems?

I think the answer is simple but not easy. It takes a leap of faith and a moment of trust. We must have faith and believe that God is with us. God knows our problems and understands our suffering. God walks with us on this life's journey! When times get tough and you want to give up, take a deep breath, turn towards God, and give all of those problems to God. God shares in them, so we don't have to bear the full load. God shares them, so we are free to also share the message with all people that God walks with us and because of that, there is nothing to fear. This is not an easy thing to do. It is not easy to give up things to God, but it is what is best for our lives as Christians. May we strive to give to God all of our burdens and our cares. May we strive to carry out our ministry faithfully.

Prayer:

Let us pray. O God of the weary, our lives are in so much turmoil right now. COVID-19 rages and all around us we are losing family and friends. There are so many people that are in need and we are so tired from our own issues. Urge and guide us towards you, so that you may share in our burdens and our cares. Help us to endure our suffering, do the work of an evangelist, and carry out our ministry faithfully. In your name. Amen.

Question for Reflection:

- Where have you seen God at work in your life today?
- How do you handle moments of great stress? What are some practical ways of helping to relieve some of that stress?

Hymn (Sung to the tune of "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"-ELW 807)

Come, dear Lord, O Help and save us
From this world of scorn and strife!
We are scared and need our Jesus
To walk with us throughout life.
When we turn to other idols,
Urge us back towards you alone!
Help us, Lord, to not be idle
May we make your Gospel shown.