

Good morning! When was the last time you shared the Gospel with somebody? I don't mean somebody at your church; I mean somebody who doesn't already know the Gospel---somebody who doesn't know Jesus. When was the last time you told somebody about Jesus? The term "evangelical" comes from the Greek word euangelion, meaning "the good news" or the "gospel." Evangelicals, then, focus on telling the Good News of salvation brought to sinners by Jesus Christ. In that sense, most of the evangelicals I know are not very evangelical at all! And why not? Usually, it's because we are unsure of how to tell it, how it will be received, or whether this will be a convenient time for a lengthy and possibly complicated or tense conversation. This morning, let's take a quick look together at some counsel that Paul gave to his young protégé, Timothy:

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.

**2Tim. 4:2**

I'm sure you have read this passage before, right? I have always wondered what Paul meant when he said, "*Be prepared in season and out of season.*" When is it out of season to preach the word? When is it in season? I recently came across this passage in the New Living Translation, which puts it this way: "*Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not.*" The New English Translation says it this way: "*Be ready, whether it is convenient or not.*" Sometimes, I know, the time just doesn't feel right. Paul ignores that feeling though, suggesting that whether or not the timing seems favorable or convenient, it is always appropriate. Interestingly, I have proved this in my own experience---and maybe you have, too. I have sometimes felt very uncomfortable bringing up the subject of Jesus in a conversation but I have never regretted it afterwards. We know intellectually that people don't come to Christ because of our eloquence or Bible knowledge; we know it's the Holy Spirit that does it. And yet, in practice we seem to believe exactly the opposite! This morning, I am encouraging you (and me!) to be faithful to share the good news of Jesus with somebody. Ask God to put someone in your way today who needs to hear about Jesus. It's very Good News...and God wants you to share it with somebody today!