➢ **Thoroughly preach the whole counsel of God (v. 2)**

2 Timothy 4:1-2
1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

What's so unique about the Bible?

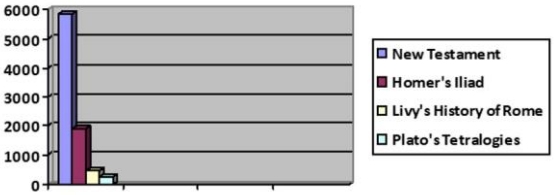
- **Unity in the midst of diversity**

66 books, by 40 different human authors, across 1500 years, on 3 continents in 3 languages YET, one cohesive storyline.

2 Peter 1:21
For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:16
All Scripture is God-breathed…

- **Manuscript evidence**



Years between events recorded and earliest manuscript:
Plato's Tetralogies = 200
Livy's History of Rome = 300
Homer's Iliad = 400
New Testament = 30

➢ **Expect a wide-range of responsiveness (v. 3-4)**

2 Timothy 4:3-4
3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

itching ears = a curiosity that looks for interesting and spicy bits of information

Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13) – four soils = hard, rocky, weed-infested, good

"If you want to believe in Jesus, hear, read, think, know about Him, and so you will find faith springing up in your heart." – C.H. Spurgeon

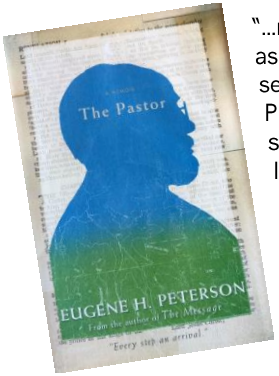
➢ **Stay grounded and faithful (v. 5)**

2 Timothy 4:5
But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

→

"keep your head" = to be sober, have a clear mind, keep your wits about you

Expect it to be hard, don't be tethered to outcomes, be diligent about the work the Lord has given you to do.



"...my outside was bigger than my inside. I installed Alexander Whyte as my pastor. At 6:00 every Sunday morning, I read one of his sermons that he had preached from the pulpit at St. George's Presbyterian Church in Edinburgh. I had already prepared the sermon I would preach that day—now I let him preach to me. I did that for the next twenty years of Sundays." – Eugene Peterson