

March 2021 devotional:

## **PREPARED & GROWING STRONGLY IN THE WORD OF GOD**

"Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction." (2 Timothy 4: 2, NIV)

We are currently living in a time of great change entering the last years, days and hours leading up to the second coming of the Lord Jesus. Most of us are aware of this after entering the Covid-19 pandemic, which has occurred throughout the world for more than a year and also the occurrence of various disasters and political upheaval in various countries. Even though the Lord Jesus said that we would never know the day and time of His coming, He gave His promise that we would recognize the time through the signs of the times - and now the signs are already visible! Never before has the fulfillment of prophecy occurred concurrently as is now happening throughout His church, in Israel and throughout the world. The Lord Jesus said that "verily, this generation will not pass away, until these things have happened" (Matthew 24:34). Therefore, the message in 2 Timothy 4: 2 is also addressed to our generation, "preach the word, be ready, whether the timing is good or not, say what is wrong, rebuke and advise with all patience and teaching." The king had given him the opportunity to speak. Agrippa for self-defense in Acts 26: 1, etc. After he told about repentance and his calling in verses 12-23, then in Acts 26: 27-28 he asked King Agrippa, Do you believe, King Agrippa, to the prophets? I know that you believe in them. " Agrippa replied: "You almost convinced me to become a Christian!" The Apostle Paul at that time was actually in a bad condition. He was undergoing a lengthy trial for the enemies of the gospel, but he was always prepared to preach the word. At that time the apostle Paul knew that King Agrippa started feeling touched by the word of God that he preached. But in the end, King Agrippa, because of his mind and hardness of heart, chose not to believe. Paul did not give up witnessing to save souls, he said that he would pray for all those who were there who heard his testimony so that they too would become like him, believe and receive the grace of God who has saved mankind from sin. That is why the apostle Paul conveyed what was written in 2 Timothy 4: 2 to Timothy who became his spiritual child. This verse also speaks specifically for today's generation and we should also be prepared whether or not the time is right to preach the Word, then state what was wrong, rebuke and advise people with patience and teaching in the midst of opportunities that arise. Why? Because once again, the coming of the Lord Jesus is getting closer. Maybe there are people or some of us who are like King Agrippa, when he heard the words and testimony, his heart was touched and began to believe. But then, the logic began to analyse. Actually his spirit was beginning to be kindled, but on the other hand his human mind could not accept it. Between the heart and mind began to get out of sync and tug of war. The name of a miracle is absurd, and God's law is different from human law. People can choose to open their hearts and believe, or they can harden their hearts like King Agrippa. People who want to be obedient and open their hearts to God's words, their lives always walk in God's guidance. His faith will grow and will be ready to receive great miracles. Meanwhile, King Agrippa finally rejected the words that had been delivered and lost the opportunity to gain salvation due to hardening his heart and choosing not to believe. Basically, each of us can choose, whether we are willing to open our hearts or harden our hearts to receive God's word. Let us continue to be sanctified by His word (John 17:17), Amen!

By Pastor Silwanus Obadja M.Th.