

PREACH THE WORD . . .

AND THE REST OF THE TASK

Concordia Theological Seminary

The seal of Concordia Theological Seminary bears the motto, “Preach the Word,” from II Timothy 4:2. That certainly is what the seminary strives to prepare men to do, but a fuller context of Paul’s exhortation reveals more of the seminary’s task. Consider II Timothy 4:1-8.

On what basis is Timothy to undertake his ministry (4:1)? Explore the implications of that. How does this charge shape the *content* of ministry? What is the basis for the seminary’s service? How does the seminary’s service reflect the shape of Timothy’s?

How important to the whole ministry is preaching the Word (4:2a)? What is the chief message of this *kerygma*? (See also 4:5.) How does the seminary prepare men to do this?

Besides proclamation of the Gospel, what else is to be preached in the ministry of the Word (4:2b)? Are these duties always easy? Why not? What are some of the obstacles that make the Word seem “out of season?” How is the seminary charged to “reprove, rebuke, and exhort?” In what manner must all of this always be done? How well do you sense the seminary doing in this regard?

What should we expect the reaction to our ministry (that is, your pastor’s and the seminary’s) to be (4:3-6)? Why? Should this be discouraging to us? Why not (4:7-8)? What will constitute “the good fight” for pastors and the seminary?

How is the seminary seeking to fight that good fight these days? Glad you asked! . . .