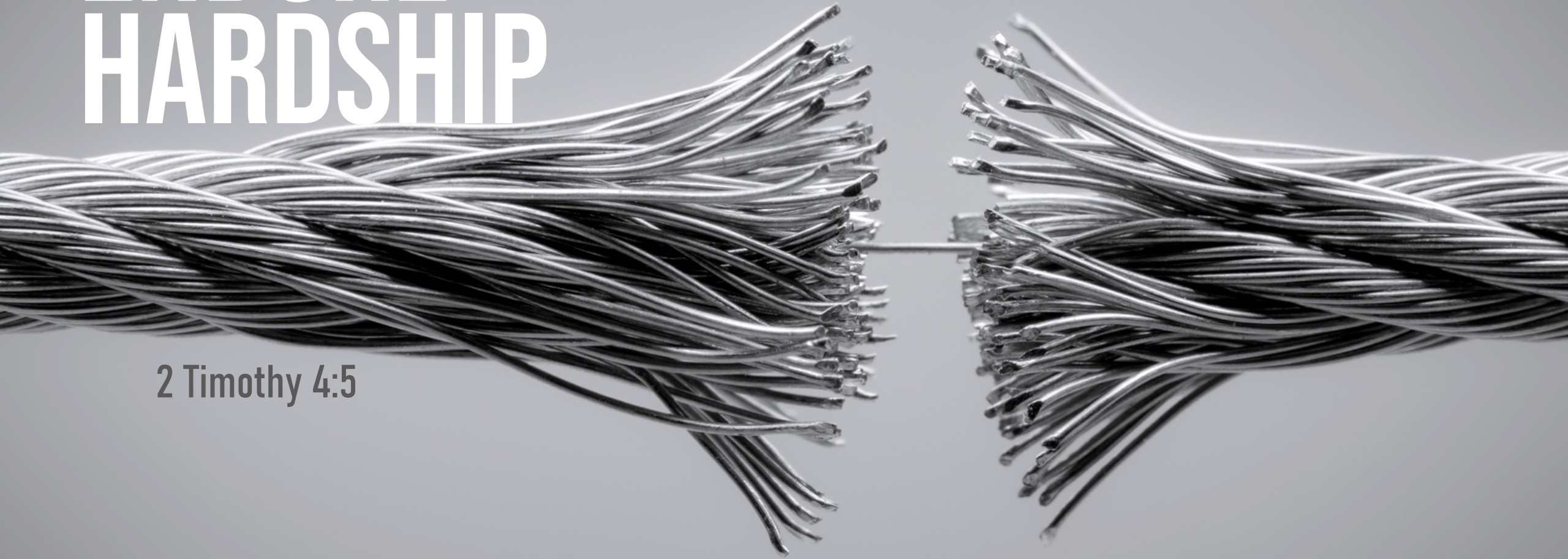


**I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Tim 4:1–5 LSB)**

# ENDURE HARDSHIP

2 Timothy 4:5



# DIFFICULT TIMES

- Paul warned Timothy that the last days (the Messianic Age; Acts 2:16–17; Heb 1:2) would be difficult times (Gr. kairos = 2 Tim 3:1; 4:1–4; 1 Tim 4:1–3; cf. Gr. chalepos = Matt 8:28).
- The difficulty would arise from godless people (2 Tim 3:2–9).
- Christians would become the target of God-haters because of their faithfulness to Christ and their unyielding teaching (correction) of the truth (2:14–26; 3:10–17; cf. John 17:14–19).

# SUFFERING PERSECUTION

- Paul became a model of Christian suffering (2 Tim 2:8–10).
- Timothy (and any whom he taught) needed to prepare himself to follow Paul's—or better, Christ's—example of enduring persecution (1:8b; 2:3; cf. vv. 2, 11–13; 3:10–12; 4:5).
- The enemies of God try to shame believers (e.g., Timothy) into conforming to their standards; Christians must not be ashamed of the Lord or his people (1:8a; cf. vv. 12, 16–18).

# REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST

- How do we persevere through difficult times and suffer hardship as a Christian? Paul answers simply: “Remember Jesus Christ” (2 Tim 2:8; cf. v. 9; Heb 12:1–3).
- God empowers us by his grace (2 Tim 2:1; cf. 1:6–7; 4:17–18).
- In seasons of distress, when endurance is necessary, we must focus on our hope in Christ; “heaven will surely be worth it all” (1:1, 12b; 2:10–13, 19; cf. 4:18; Rom 8:18).

**For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. (2 Tim 4:6–8 LSB)**

# ENDURE HARDSHIP

2 Timothy 4:5

