

# 2 Timothy 4:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

## Analysis

**But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.** Against the backdrop of coming apostasy, Paul commands Timothy's faithfulness. "But watch thou" (sy de nēphe, σὺ δὲ νήφε)—sharp contrast, "you, however." Nēphō (νήφω) means be sober, alert, vigilant—opposite of intoxication or drowsy carelessness. "In all things" (en pasin, ἐν πᾶσιν)—every circumstance, without exception. Timothy must maintain clear-headed vigilance amid increasing deception.

"Endure afflictions" (kakopathēson, κακοπάθησον)—same verb as 2:3, meaning suffer hardship, endure mistreatment. Faithful ministry brings suffering, not prosperity. "Do the work of an evangelist" (ergon poiēson euangelistou, ἔργον ποιήσον εὐαγγελιστοῦ). Euangelistēs (εὐαγγελιστής) means evangelist, gospel proclaimer—one who announces good news. Though Timothy was pastor-teacher, he must also evangelize, not merely tend existing sheep but seek lost ones.

"Make full proof of thy ministry" (tēn diakonian sou plērophorēson, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον). Plērophoreō (πληροφορέω) means fulfill completely, accomplish fully, carry out to completion. Diakonia (διακονία) means service, ministry. Timothy must complete his calling fully, not partially. He must finish the race, not quit midway. This four-fold charge summarizes faithful ministry: vigilance, suffering, evangelism, completion. Each element counters temptation—vigilance against deception, endurance despite hardship, evangelism amid opposition, completion despite discouragement.

## Historical Context

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"Evangelist" appears only three times in New Testament: here, Acts 21:8 (Philip), and Ephesians 4:11 (church office). Evangelists proclaimed gospel in new areas, pioneering work, distinguishing them from settled pastors. Paul urges Timothy, though pastor in Ephesus, to maintain evangelistic zeal. The command remains relevant: pastors must evangelize, not merely shepherd existing believers. Church growth requires gospel proclamation, not merely transfer growth. Completion language echoes Paul's own testimony (v. 7)—finishing the race matters more than starting strongly.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How vigilant and sober-minded are you amid contemporary spiritual deception and cultural pressure toward compromise?
2. Are you willing to endure afflictions for faithful ministry, or do you seek comfortable Christianity avoiding suffering?
3. How are you 'doing the work of an evangelist' and 'making full proof' of your calling rather than merely coasting?

## Interlinear Text

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σὺ	δὲ	νῆφε	ἐν	πᾶσιν	κακοπάθησον	ἔργον	ποίησον
thou	But	watch	in	all things	endure afflictions	the work	do
G4771	G1161	G3525	G1722	G3956	G2553	G2041	G4160
εὐαγγελιστοῦ	τὴν	διακονίαν	σου	πληροφόρησον			
of an evangelist	G3588	ministry	of thy	make full proof			
G2099		G1248	G4675	G4135			

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Timothy 1:8** (Parallel theme): Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

**1 Peter 1:13** (Parallel theme): Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

**2 Timothy 2:3** (Parallel theme): Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

**Colossians 4:17** (Parallel theme): And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

**1 Timothy 4:12** (Parallel theme): Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

**Acts 21:8** (Parallel theme): And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

**1 Timothy 4:15** (Parallel theme): Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

**1 Thessalonians 5:6** (Parallel theme): Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

**Ephesians 4:11** (Parallel theme): And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

**Revelation 3:2** (Parallel theme): Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.