



## Preaching Christ Out of Season

**2 Timothy 4:2**

**“Be instant** (be ready and available) **in season, out of season”** (2 Tim. 4:2). Be ready to share God’s Word whether it’s convenient or inconvenient.

John Harper, a faithful preacher of the gospel in both Scotland and America, was a passenger on the Titanic’s maiden voyage along with his young daughter. After the ship struck the iceberg, Harper made sure his daughter was placed safely into a lifeboat, and he then removed his life jacket and gave it to another passenger. One survivor distinctly remembered hearing him shout, "Women, children and the unsaved into the lifeboats!" Harper knew that believers were ready to die, but the unsaved were not ready. Harper then ran along the decks pleading with people to turn to Christ. As the ship began to sink, he jumped into the icy water. While most would think only of their own survival, John urged others to turn to the Lord Jesus. Finally, as hypothermia set in, John Harper sank beneath the waters and passed into the Lord’s presence at age 39.

Four years later, a young Scotsman, Aguilla Webb, stood up in a meeting and gave the following testimony: “When I was drifting alone on a spar that awful night, the tide brought Mr. John Harper of Glasgow, also on a piece of wreck, near me. ‘Man,’ he said, ‘Are you saved?’ ‘No,’ I said, ‘I am not.’ He replied, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.’ The waves bore him away; but, strange to say brought him back a little later, and he repeated the very same message. Shortly after he went down; and there, alone in the night, and with two miles of water under me, I believed. ***I am John Harper’s last convert.***”

**It was not a convenient time for Harper to share the gospel; it was certainly out of season, but he did it.**

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)



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