

7. **An OT Example** God told Jeremiah (1:10), “*I have this day set thee _____ the _____ and over the _____.*” Explanation: Society had again become very wicked, forgetting that God had once destroyed the (Gen 6) old world with the _____. God commissions this young prophet to do four negative things and two positive things. He uses familiar agricultural and architectural expressions. (#1) “*to _____ out,*” meaning to dig the sin out by the roots; (#2) “*to _____ down,*” as in demolishing an antiquated building; (#3) “*to _____,*” as in razing, burning, killing, and burying idolatry; (#4) “*to _____ down*” the reign of sin; (#5) “*to _____*” back the bulwarks of righteousness; (#6) “*and to _____*” the seeds of God’s Word once again in their hearts. The (Rom 6:6) “*old _____*” must die before we can (Col 3:10) “*put on the _____ man.*”
8. **More** It is a much greater chore to undo false religious notions than to teach one who has no preconceived and prejudiced ideas. That was the case in Jeremiah’s day. (Jer 2:13) “*For my people have committed _____ evils.*” (#1) “*They have _____ the fountain of _____ waters.*” (#2) They have “*_____ them _____ cisterns, _____ cisterns; that can hold _____ water.*” This is a double whammy! That’s why 2/3rds of Jeremiah’s instruction was negative.
9. **NT Example** (2 Tim 4:2) “*_____ the _____; be instant _____ season, _____ season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all _____ and _____.*” These three items are all necessary, but 2/3rds of them (2 out of 3), would be perceived as negative by general society. (#1) To **Reprove** means to censure; express disapproval; (#2) To **Rebuke** is to reprove sharply; to reprimand with authority; (#3) To **Exhort** means to urge by sincere and appealing argument intended to persuade, not alienate. One cannot faithfully “preach the word” with scriptural conviction unless he employs these three commands, two of which are deemed negative.
10. **Positive Thinking** Motivational speakers have long touted the power of positive thinking. Norman Vincent Peale wrote a popular book entitled *The Power of Positive Thinking*. So thought Paul when he admonished (Col 3:2), “*Set your _____ on things _____, not on things _____ the _____.*” The last thing we want is to diminish positive thinking and preaching. But we argue that “positive” preaching is described in Paul’s words (Acts 20:27) to the Ephesian elders when he said, “*For I have not _____ to declare unto you _____ the _____ of God.*” That means the good, bad, and ugly; the negative with the positive – the whole nine yards.
11. **The Symptoms** These are the evidences (ie: the signs) of an ailment. In Isaiah’s day this same wickedness permeated God’s people, whom he called (30:9) “*_____ people, _____ children.*” They said “*to the seers, _____; and to the prophets, _____ unto us _____ things.*” What did they want? “*Speak unto us _____ things, prophesy _____.*” When people have (2 Tim 4:2) “*_____ ears*” they “*will _____ endure _____ doctrine.*” Is this hard for complicit brethren to identify their guilt? _____
12. **Tough Love** This is a demonstration of one’s love for self, or another, in exhibiting genuine concern for their greater good by using strict, but not necessarily pleasant, measures of discipline to quell undesired behavioral tendencies (eg: father spansks unruly child). Two lessons that may shed some light are [#264](#), Restoration of the Fallen, and [#330](#), A Generation Gap in the Church? Preaching the negative commandments invokes the ire of the self-righteous. They don’t want to alienate anyone or accept personal responsibility. Paul said “*be _____ in season, out of _____.*” Keeble said: “*Preach it when they like it, and preach it when they don’t like it.*”
13. **Brethren, Live Positively** The Corinthian church had many problems. Paul asked them: (1 Cor 4:21) “*Shall I come unto you _____ a _____, or in _____, and in the spirit of _____?*” There is a time and place for all things: (Eccl 3:1) “*To every thing there is _____.*” Jesus (Rom 8:3) “*condemned _____ in the flesh,*” yet Christian hearts (Col 2:2) must “*be _____ together in _____,*” meaning (Jn 14:15), “*If ye _____ me, _____ my commandments.*”