

Equipped
FOR THE FIGHT

Be A Good Worker

2 Timothy 2:14-26

Lesson 19

In this week's passage, Paul gives us a few more illustrations to guide us in living out our Christian faith. First, he tells us to be good workers. We are to be diligent in our labors, especially our labor in the Word of God. The Bible is a tool and, when handled properly, it will build both our personal lives and the lives of others. Remember that Paul was helping Timothy navigate through the false teachers who were drawing God's people away from the simple truth of His Word. Like Timothy, we must be diligent to go to the Word of God, listen to its counsel and obey it so we can stand against false doctrine and rest knowing that we are approved and good workers of God.

Paul uses two more analogies in this chapter: the vessel and the servant. In God's economy, there are vessels of honor and those of dishonor. Vessels of dishonor describe the false teachers. They are not valuable and they do not honor God. They are like wood or hay and they will not survive the final test of fire. Contrary to these imposters, we should be like vessels of honor since we have been sanctified or set apart and are available to be used by God. We have been cleansed and now we are useful to the Master for His work here on earth.

Finally, Paul addresses servants of the Lord and challenges them to focus on winning souls and to avoid endless disputes and foolish arguments. Once again, Paul gives us a list of characteristics of a godly pastor, leader, or servant which includes gentleness, patience, and the ability to humbly correct those who are in opposition. As you can see, it is not an easy task to be a good worker for Christ. Keep this in mind as you do your homework this week. Then pause and faithfully pray for your pastor and all those committed to the work of the ministry.

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

This Week's Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:14-26

“Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. ¹⁵Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. ¹⁶But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. ¹⁷And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, ¹⁸who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. ¹⁹Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” ²⁰But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. ²¹Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. ²²Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. ²³But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. ²⁴And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.” NKJV

This Week's Memory Verse:

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
2 Timothy 2:15

1. In verse 14, Paul again tells Timothy to give reminders to the church body. What were they not to strive about? _____

a. According to verse 14b, what would the outcome be if they did not heed the reminder?

b. How do useless arguments end up ruining those who hear them? _____

2. Instead of striving over trivial things, what does verse 15 say we are to be diligent about?

a. What does Hebrews 4:12 tell us about this subject? _____

Group Discussion

Considering the above information, how important is the Word in our lives as believers? _____

3. In contrast, what does verse 16 say we are to shun? _____

a. What reason for this direction is given in verse 17? _____

b. Have you ever witnessed ungodly speech that has spread like a cancer? What was the outcome? _____

“Do not let the loud utterances of your own wills anticipate, nor drown, the still, small voice in which God speaks. Bridle impatience till He does. If you cannot hear His whisper, wait till you do. Take care of running before you are sent. Keep your wills in equipoise till God's hand gives the impulse and direction.”

– Alexander MacLaren (1826-1910)

“In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. ²¹If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work. ²²Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.” 2 Timothy 2:20-22 NLT

4. In verses 20-22, Paul uses the analogy of utensils or vessels to get his point across.

a. What causes a vessel to be honorable, according 2 Timothy 2:21-22? _____

b. What causes a vessel to be dishonorable, according to James 1:14-15? _____

Personal

Are you currently a vessel for honor or dishonor? What must you do to become a vessel for honor? Read 1 John 1:9 for encouragement. _____

5. According to verses 24-25, what are the attributes of a godly servant? _____

a. What must we escape in order to be godly servants, according to verse 26? _____

“Christians, you who are vessels of election - were by nature as wicked as others - but God had compassion on you and plucked you as brands out of the fire! He stopped you in your course of sinning - when you were marching to hell! He turned you back to Him by sincere repentance. Oh, here is the banner of love displayed over you!”

– Thomas Watson (1620-1686)

