

Final Thoughts

2 Timothy 2:20-26

Timothy, how useful do you want to be?

Timothy, there are two options, the CHOICE is yours vs. 20-21

Vessel metaphor: HONORABLE and COMMON

Clean HEARTED followers are vessels of honor

God will SET HIM APART, give him an ASSIGNMENT,
and PREPARE him

Descriptions of a CLEAN HEARTED Timothy vs. 22-23

He WATCHES over his life vs. 22

Run FROM youthful lusts

Run AFTER righteousness

Run WITH pure hearted people

He keeps himself off FRUITLESS paths vs. 23

The FIVE qualities of a useful vessel vs. 24-25

'not quarrelsome' = don't engender STRIFE

'kind to all' = GRACIOUS demeanor

'able to teach' = tell it STRAIGHT and clear

'patient when wronged' = BEAR UP against ill treatment

In 'gentleness correcting' = humbly TRAIN opponents

The IMPACT of a clean hearted Timothy vs. 25-26

'God may grant repentance' = CHANGE of direction

'come to their senses' = AWAKEN from a stupor

'escape from the snare' = traps of the DEVIL

Released from being 'held captive' = kidnapped, held HOSTAGE

Auburn Grace Community Church – February 19th, 2023

Life Group Discussion Questions – February 19, 2023

2 Timothy 2:20-21 "Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work."

DISCOVER

1. Discuss the more common reasons why people quarrel. Are these the same quarrels we have in the Church today? What is the greatest underlying source of disagreements? (see Acts 15:36-41)
2. What might the consequences be when a person of "impeccable character" has a moral failure? Describe the possible after-effects if this person is in a position of leadership, especially in the Church? What happens if the failure is not so catastrophic, but more like getting caught-up in an unwinnable position? What makes situations like these unwinnable?
3. Ephesians 2:10 tells us that God has prepared good works for us to do. Some of these works are still waiting our attention. What percentage of good works for the Lord do you think you are doing?

EXPLORE

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:20-26. What kinds of vessels are for dishonor? What do the gold/silver vessels represent? What do the wooden and earthen vessels represent? How do we become honorable vessels? Isn't this the same as "earning" spiritual rewards? Explain.
2. Read 1 Peter 5:6. This verse implies that if we desire to be a useful tool for God we must humble ourselves first. In what ways should we humble ourselves?
3. How do we watch over our lives so that we not only flee from youthful desires but we also run toward fruitful labor? What have you run from in your life? Why is it important that we are not only running from something, but also pursuing something else? (see James 4:7)

EXPERIENCE

1. Name the five qualities of a useful vessel. Which one is the most challenging for you? (2 Timothy 2:24-25)
2. Paul instructs Timothy that words matter to God. How might God be calling you to adjust your words in correcting or instructing others about the centrality of the gospel message?
3. What is the bigger temptation for you, to leave false teaching unchallenged or to oppose it without gentleness and love? Why do you think that is?
4. How well do you handle the Word of God? How could you grow in becoming a more "approved workman" in God's Word?
5. Take a moment and consider if there's anyone in your circle of influence who is now being led astray. How will you respond?

PRAY

Pray... *Father in heaven, we know sin influences the purity of our hearts, yet our hearts also manifest Your glory. Help us with the meditations of our hearts, so that we might display a life that brings honor to Your Great Name. May we yield every moment to Christ, so that others might meet You through our lives. Mold us into the God-honoring vessels You created us to be. Amen.*

Apply... *Determine this day how useful you want to be for the Lord. Design your strategy and report back to your Life Group during the next meeting. How can your group help you?*